



THE FELIX

Wednesday 19th March, 1997
issue 1083

est. 1949 <http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/Felix>
Student Newspaper of Imperial College

JIZ Wake up with our JIZ Easter Special inside.

The General Election is coming. Find out about your local Prospective Parliamentary Candidates on the centre pages.



In your bumper
Something for the Weekend: Star Wars, Dante's peak and battle of the college bands

Extra sabbatical post urged for ICU

JITEN PATEL

At Tuesday's Student Representative Council meeting, a ground-breaking motion put forward by Sarah Corneille, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), requested the creation of a fifth sabbatical post.

In the proposal, the post was given the nominal title "Deputy President (Student Affairs)". The responsibilities outlined for the new sabbatical include the setting up and management of an effective Academic Affairs Officer and Department Representative system, improving communication between the student body and the Union, and co-ordinating welfare issues.

The proposal was put forward in response to various problems encountered by the current sabbaticals in their work this year. One of the main issues raised by Ms Corneille was the amount of time officers spend "pushing paper", cutting into the time they have to spend on actual planning, discussion and action.

Ms Corneille also stressed that the current sabbatical officers all have specific areas of concern and so have little overview of the student body as

a whole. One of the new sabbatical's duties would be to liaise between students and the Union, encouraging feedback and allowing IC students to become more involved with the running of their Union.

As ever, planning for the imminent medical merger is a growing concern for Union officers. The Council heard how one of the new sabbatical's initial responsibilities would be to represent medical students during the transitional stages of their move to the South Kensington campus during 1997 and 1998.

Despite stressing that the new staff member would not be a "medic's sabbatical", Deputy President Ms Corneille expressed her opinion that someone ought to be available to help medical students in "coming to terms with moving from a small intimate college to a large anonymous one." It is intended that the post become a more general position after a couple of years when the merger issue is less critical.

Mark Pursey, a sabbatical officer from University College London, happened to be attending the meeting with respect to an unrelated matter.

continued on page seven



The Imperial College fencing team has conquered all, winning the British University Sports Association team event in Birmingham, defeating Birmingham University in the final after thrashing Durham in the semis.

Back in South Kensington, the fencers are hoping for some extra money from the Union to pay for

repairs to the BUSA cup after it was damaged during their slightly over-zealous victory celebrations.

Both Imperial College's fencing squad and dance team were victorious in their respective national competitions, leading a trend of Imperial College dominance in these sports.

Full reports on back page.

St Mary's Rag record for Circle Line pub crawl

KENT YIP

St Mary's Hospital Medical School's annual Rag week has generated £35,000 so far this year, and more is expected from sponsorships and from the London Marathon, in which many medical students hope to participate.

This year also saw a new record set for the most money raised by a single event. The Circle Line Pub Crawl, involving around 400 students, brought in an estimated

£19,500. This is an increase of around £2,000 on the previous record, set last year.

St Mary's Rag plans to donate about £20,000 to Motor Neurone Disease, an organisation devoted to funding research and providing care for patients suffering from various forms of nervous disability. £4,000 will be given to Help The Aged for their purchase of a new minibus. What remains will be distributed among the internal charities of St

Mary's Hospital.

Other Rag Week fund raising events included the Breakfast Party, when £4,000 was collected from Waterloo and Paddington Stations in the early morning rush hours; the Rag Dash to Dublin, which yielded £1,500; and the numerous entertainment evenings - Games Show, Bands Night, and Comedy Night - all of which enjoyed an attendance of well over 300.

Speaking to *Felix*, Rob Slater,

President of the Rag Committee, said that he was extremely pleased with the amount raised and impressed with the effort put in by all the students. Andy King, secretary of the Rag Committee, expressed his hopes that after the merger, medical students would be able to collaborate with their scientist and engineer counterparts and show them how to run an even more successful Rag Week from the South Kensington campus.

Department of Mining shafted?

TONY OFORI

At the beginning of March, mining students in IC's department of Environmental Resources Engineering heard that three of their four lecturers would probably be leaving. During a meeting held by Professor Rawlings, Dean of the Royal School of Mines and head of department, undergraduates were told that as of next September there would be significantly less teaching staff. Not only will they lose 80% of their lecturers but this will be accompanied by a reduction in support staff.

Currently there are five courses in ERE of which two are broadly concerned with mining techniques. Some 26 students stand to be affected by the changes. The mining department may be small, but many students and staff have expressed their belief in its value as an individual subject. Gone are the days when miners are pictured wearing wellingtons and hard hats, bearing a Davy lamp in one hand and a pick in the other. Many now regard mining as a scientific discipline.

Speaking to *Felix*, Prof Rawlings insisted that the quality of the degree courses will be maintained despite the cuts, and went on to point out that the courses are regularly scrutinised by various examination bodies and any fall in teaching standards will be quickly picked up. However, many students remain unconvinced.

Present plans include keeping one of the department's principle lecturers, while another three are encouraged to take early retirement. These three would return to work on a part-time basis, but they would only be required to work around a tenth of their current hours.

Understandably, many ERE students are bewildered by the current situation, and cannot see how their department can function properly with such a large reduction in teaching staff. Two new courses will be offered to prospective mining stu-

dents, both focussing on the environmental aspect of mining. Some observers fear that the intention is to phase out 'pure' mining degrees and replace them with shallower courses concentrating on environmental concerns.

According to Prof Rawlings, "economic considerations" are the driving force behind this radical staff restructuring. At the moment the department feels unable to maintain its current staffing level within its budget. The mining department in the RSM is the only one in the country supported solely by research funding. This presents the department with a problem: they may not be able to support the staff they have, but without these staff cannot hope to win the funding they need.

Some students argue that the move to fewer teaching staff may make financial sense but is academic nonsense. ERE undergraduates may face a significant drop in teaching quality. With only one full-time lecturer and 26 students the staff:student ratio will be relatively high. In addition, links with industry forged by current lecturers may be severed upon their departure, making it difficult for students to gain a foothold in commercial mining.

ERE also suffers from a deficit of new recruits to the teaching staff, with three lecturers within 5 years of retirement age. In response, Prof Rawlings alluded to the difficulty in finding new lecturers in the mining discipline combining both youth and talent.

Another point of concern is a new European university exchange scheme for mining students. If the teaching staff leave the department as proposed, IC will no longer be able to fulfill its commitment to the students from German, Dutch and Finnish universities. This will may also have serious implications for the IC students participating in the exchange, as they may be rendered unable to complete their course.

News in Brief

THIEF ARRESTED

A man wanted by the police was apprehended in the Biochemistry Building on Monday evening. He was found in possession of several stolen items and went to court last Tuesday charged with a variety of crimes.

Security were alerted by a woman in the Biochemistry Dept who rang them after recognising a man whom she had disturbed rifling through her handbag a week previously. After a brief chase, Security caught and detained the man, managing to hold him until the police arrived. On their arrival the police informed Security that the man was wanted for burglary and theft by both the Metropolitan and the City of London police forces.

A disconsolate Ken Weir, Head of security, expressed his dismay over the level of knowledge displayed by the thief "He seemed to know his way around the building quite well, he was going into offices with open doors and taking wallets and purses." This incident again calls into question the effectiveness of College's security and raises the possibility of a full surveillance system being installed.

UNION SHOPS AROUND FOR NEW BUSINESS

The Union Bookstore closes for business on Friday 21st March, and will remain closed for a month while refurbishment takes place. When the Bookstore re-opens on the 21st April, it will bear the new and imaginative title, 'The Union Shop'.

The new shop will sell the same product range as before but without the books, the contract to supply books on campus having been taken over by Waterstones. The 'Shop' will essentially sell stationery, but should include a few new product lines. The newsagent on the opposite side of the Walkway will remain unaffected by the changes, and the 20% sale on all books remains in place until the close of business on Friday. Waterstone's expects to begin trading on the first day of next term, the same day as the new Union Shop.

ELECTION RULES CHANGE

Several changes to the rules governing ICU's sabbatical elections have been proposed, following the controversy generated by this year's campaigns.

At a meeting of ICU Council last Tuesday night, Eric Allsop, ICU President, commented that there

were "holes in the election rules", but that the opportunity exists to rectify this. The most significant changes are likely to surround the 'New Election' campaign, with the possibility of a body being set up to regulate its actions.

This would attempt to avoid a repeat of events this year, when *Felix* was heavily criticised for its pessimistic reporting of the hustings, and was accused of inciting students to vote against the candidates. Some supporters of defeated candidates have claimed that *Felix* deliberately attempted to influence student opinion, openly supporting the alternative candidates should 'New Election' be returned for the post of ICU president.

Also under consideration is a proposal to place a copy of each candidate's manifesto along side each ballot box, to allow students to read them before voting. The Elections Committee will decide when they meet next week exactly what changes are to be made.

The nomination papers for the new ICU Presidential elections are to be put up opposite the Union office on the first Monday of next term. Speculation over exactly who will put themselves forward for the post is still rife.

SILVER LINING FOR CLAUDS?

'Mr T's', the snack shop on the third floor of the RSM building closed down for good on the 3rd of February. In its place has opened 'Clauds', a very similar venture operated by Everdina Clarke.

The decision to close T's came well before last Christmas, with Ms Clarke, placing her tender for the shop soon afterwards. The College spent roughly £2000 cleaning and sanitising the premises before its new proprietors took over. Ms Clarke then bought new equipment and display cabinets for sandwiches and drinks. The College placed conditions on the operations of the shop, including a ban on frying as "it made the place smell" and also to try and keep prices low. According to Ms Clarke, the few months it has been open were being used as a trial period. In October, she plans to add more types of food to the menu including baked potatoes and intends to change the tables and chairs in the eating area at some point, describing the present furniture as 'grotty'. The primary concern, however, would be the food.



**Find out if
you
won on
page 9**

We're confident we'll pass your examination.

A business-focused career in IT

Competitive salaries + benefits · London

The next few years will see radical changes in financial services – especially retail banking. Changes in customer expectations, and the emergence of new competitors from traditionally non-finance sectors, are transforming the landscape. NatWest is meeting these challenges head-on with innovations to ensure we remain 'First Choice' for our customers in the new millennium.

As you might expect, our IT teams are at the heart of this revolution, working in a seamless partnership with the business to develop and deliver new products, services, capabilities and ideas.

Our environment embraces an exceptional diversity of technologies, with powerful IBM mainframes complementing our massive investment in new tools and techniques such as Client Server and Windows NT... an investment which will run into hundreds of millions of pounds in the next year alone.

But the most important part of the budget is the expenditure earmarked for talent and training. We're looking for the best graduates

of '97, and we offer an unrivalled commitment to their personal and technical development.

If your talents are suited to **Systems Development**, you can look forward to an IT career that is uniquely 'business-focused'. Learning and development evolve through a balanced mix of project responsibility and wide-ranging courses in technical, business and personal skills according to your aims and ambitions. Ultimately, through our belief in the principle of 'career ownership', you are in control of the pace and direction of your individual development and personal progress. The long-term options, either in business or technical management, are unlimited. The rewards include a competitive salary, bonus and benefits package.

For further information and an application form, please write to Lynne Hauff, Graduate Recruitment Manager, NatWest, 2nd Floor, Eastgate House, 73 Leaman Street, London E1 8EG. E-mail: lynn.hauff@natwestuk.co.uk



NatWest

More than just a bank

Union President is pawn to King's Rag stunt

KELLY ROBINSON

Students from King's College took a detour from traditional fund raising routes during their recent Rag week, by holding assorted Students' Union representatives from the across the University of London to ransom.

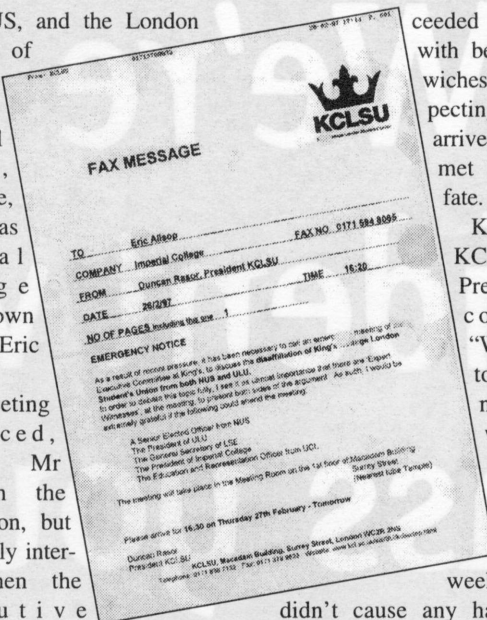
The Rag Committee fired off a series of hoax faxes, purportedly from Duncan Rasor, KCLSU president, calling for an emergency Executive Committee meeting to discuss the disaffiliation of King's College Union from both University of London Union and the National Union of Students.

Senior officers from the aforementioned organizations, as well as prominent representatives from other London Universities were requested to attend, under the apprehension that King's students were in desperate need of their expert opinion.

The honoured 'Guests' included Alison Griffin, the National Secretary

for the NUS, and the London School of Economics Union General Secretary, Dan Crowe, as well as Imperial College Union's own President, Eric Allsop.

The meeting commenced, without Mr Allsop, in the usual fashion, but was suddenly interrupted when the 'Executive Committee' removed their tops to reveal King's RAG T-Shirts. They then led their bemused victims to the bar, where they pro-



ceeded to ply them with beer and sandwiches. The unsuspecting Mr Allsop arrived late, but was met by the same fate.

Kenny Roberts, KCLSU Vice President, later commented: "We would like to stress that none of them were tied up or treated brutally in any way. It was a typical rag week joke, and

didn't cause any harm to those involved. In fact, I think most of us enjoyed it quite a lot!"

Those present greeted the whole incident in the spirit with which it

was intended and were promptly released when their respective College Unions begrudgingly paid the £50 ransom demands. KCLSU is reported to have made a grand total of £200 for their nominated charities, a princely sum for an afternoon's drinking. Later, Eric Allsop described the jape as "poorly timed but well constructed." He went on to comment that "I was treated adequately; as in accordance with the Geneva Convention."

Despite a specific personal invitation to the fictitious meeting in the fax, University of London Union President, Sarah White, failed to fall for the fundraising stunt. Presumably Ms White learnt her lesson last year when, as ICU President, she was kidnapped by St Mary's Rag in a similar incident. Although the then President was missing for over 24 hours, no-one at ICU noticed until they recieved the ransom demand.

C&GCU Election results

NEWSTEAM

The City & Guilds College Union executive elections took place last week, with the results announced on Friday evening.

Vivake Bhalla beat off stiff competition from four other candidates to win the race for President after five rounds of counting, with Aku Patel acceding to the position of Vice-President.

Soren Dymond will be Honorary Junior Treasurer, following his surprise victory over Akshay Shah, who seemed assured of victory until a third round count awarded the vast majority of New Election's reallocated votes to Mr Dymond. Mansoor Ahmed was returned as Entertainments Officer, narrowly achieving the quota to beat his opponent on the first round.

Candidates for the three other C&GCU executive positions were opposed only by New Election, with Hamish Common becoming Guildsheet Editor, Hannah Pearson returning to the executive next year as C&GC Association Rep-

resentative, and Selina Vinayaga-Pavan elected by the largest majority of any candidates Publicity Officer.

A total of 350 votes were cast at ballot boxes in six departments around the campus, representing roughly a tenth of those eligible to vote and an increase of 27% over the number of votes cast last year. This relatively high turnout comes in the wake of the success of this year's ICU sabbatical elections, where 17% of the electorate expressed a preference. One concern for students counting the votes was the number of spoilt papers, with around a fifth of the ballot papers filled out incorrectly in some departments.

The present executive were reported to be pleased with the number of people standing for positions, the highest in recent years, and with the number of people voting.

They look forward to an active year for City and Guilds College Union, and invite anyone who is interested in working on the team to get in contact with them via the C&G Office.

ULU Election results

NEWSTEAM

At ULU Council on Monday night, the four sabbatical officers who will represent the University of London's 82000 students next year were elected.

First up were the two candidates for President, where Siva Ganeshanandan (this year's General Secretary at Royal Holloway Union), beat off Mark Pursey (ULU Chair and UCL sabbatical at UCL), winning by 40 votes to 33. Both candidates seized upon the need to act fast to secure London Transport discount cards for ULU students, before privatisation takes place. Both candidates promised to oppose any threat of fees or top-up charges, Mr Pursey repeatedly stating his success in keeping fees out of the UCL prospectus. Neither candidate put forward any scheme which they would definitely support, and followed each other in expressing the need for ULU to take a greater role in the NUS, drawing cries of 'shame' from the IC delegation.

There was very little difference

between the two candidates, and questions from the floor did little to draw a distinction as only three questions were permitted by the Returning Officer.

Imperial's own Jo Paice stood unopposed for the position of Vice President (Finance & Services) and beat off the New election challenge by 36 to 25. She promised to give greater financial accountability, a greater return on the investment which College Unions put into ULU, more resources for sports and societies and smaller Colleges, and more forward planning to allow ULU to work alongside, rather than in competition with, constituent Colleges and Unions.

Elsewhere, Dan Brown combated the (non-existent) New-Election challenge, winning by 41 votes to 16 to take the post of Vice President (Sports & Societies) for 97/98, and Sam Parham won the role of V-P (Welfare & Representation) 30-29 after the first reallocation of votes, having tied 29-29 with Mark Hill on the first count.

IF YOU WANT A PROFESSION THAT'S://challenging/exciting/intellectually stimulating

www.teach.org.uk

200%

OFF

ALL BOOKS

MON 10TH - 31ST MARCH

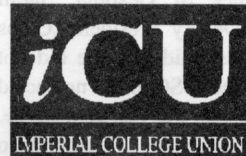
BUY YOUR NEXT BOOKS NOW

FROM UNION BOOKSTORE

AT CHEAPEST EVER PRICES

AND INVEST IN YOUR UNION

WHILE YOU STILL CAN



YOUR UNION - SERVING YOU

BAYS days SET '97 off with a bang!

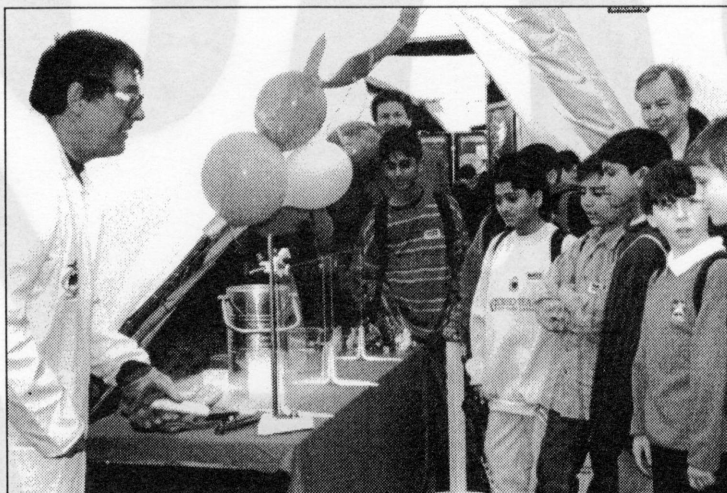
MATTHEW BENNETT

Friday saw the Queen's Lawn invaded twice for the launch of two science and engineering initiatives. Science and Technology Week 1997 and The British Association of Young Scientists shared a network of temporary marquees covering the lawn for a number of events and displays.

The first invasion was for the start of the BAYS two day event, which combined exhibitions in the Natural History Museum, the Science Museums and in IC, on both the Queen's lawn and the Sheffield building. The two BAYS days were billed as "Two days of fun and discovery for 6-13 year olds, schools and families at the science festival that launches SET '97- the national week of science, engineering and technology."

Friday's event was mainly intended for school parties, who turned up in their hundreds to see displays by British Aerospace, Sun Systems, Thames water, Glaxo Wellcome and the Armed Forces. The demonstrations included experiments with chemical slime, raspberry jelly lasers and that perennial favourite, exploding custard.

The participating companies adopted varying approaches to the event, with some displays, such as that from Sun Systems, aimed mainly at the adults in the parties while Glaxo Wellcome's presentation was clearly intended to provide 'hands on' experience of basic science principles for the younger visitors. Demonstrators at the British Aerospace display claimed that their main thrust was in sparking interest



PHOTOS: LILY

Young scientists and engineers getting to grips with demonstration and practical displays at the British Association of Young Scientists' Science and Engineering Week '97.

in science, while their display also contained elements obviously designed to promote BA among a more mature audience. Their collection of small autonomous robots, however, proved popular with everyone that saw them.

The teachers and parents present also differed in their attitude to the event, with some bringing pupils hoping to promote an interest in science, while others saw the occasion as an opportunity to give their charges a brief respite from the tedi-

um of the classroom.

The second invasion was somewhat more carefully regimented, consisting a small army of middle aged men in suits, attending the launch of SET '97, YES (the Year of Engineering Success) and the BAYS days.

In turn, the Duke of Kent, Ian Taylor MP (Minister for science and technology) and heads of the various interested organisations showered the assembled suits with acronym-laden rhetoric concerning the increasing importance of science and in particular engineering to our everyday lives.

Many observers were disappointed that pure science was largely ignored in the speeches, although those on the stands stressed that today's science will be tomorrow's technology. British Aerospace in particular were positive about working with universities (including IC) on projects with no immediate technological applications.

Numerous pieces of technology developed by Imperial College groups were on display, including a laser cutting device which launched SET '97, theatrically etching the initiative's name into a piece of plastic. This technology is similar, it was pointed out, to that used in cutting holes to reduce turbulence in aircraft wings.

One teacher described the event as "brilliant", while the minister for Science and Technology somewhat mistakenly described it as a coming together of IC and UCL, which it was not. Elsewhere hundreds of unconcerned school children squealed with delight over green slime.

'Incompetent' Overseas Students' Committee under fire

MARIA IOANNOU

The executive of the Overseas Students' Committee faced the possibility of a vote of no confidence at ICU Council last Tuesday, after the Union's Budgets Advisory Group received no annual budget from the OSC despite repeated reminders of the approaching deadline for budget submissions.

BAG, a subcommittee of the Union Finance Committee, recommended to Council that the OSC, who they described as "grossly incompetent", receive a vote of no confidence, effectively sacking them. However, believing that this some-

what extreme measure might result in the total disintegration of the OSC, members of the Council turned down the proposal as there would be no one to replace the existing executive.

In an attempt to defend herself, Despina Crassa, the present OSC chair, raised a myriad of points, some of which were confirmed by various members of Council. That the BAG does not provide a good 'model' budget, Despina claimed, is problematic for many of the Union's clubs and societies.

Ms Crassa went on to confess "I'm useless at tax and VAT, I don't know what's going on."

Despina also told the Council how she had received last year's OSC papers in a Sainsbury's bag and asked how she was meant to write budgets, arrange International Night, and sort out the "mess" left by the previous years OSC, all with the help of "one competent, and one incompetent treasurer, who in effect cancel each other out."

Piers Williams, Deputy President (Finance and Services) who headed BAG this year, proposed that those clubs that behaved incompetently with regards to their budgets receive either a "Slap", a "Big Slap" or a "Very Big Slap". The OSC were

deemed worthy of a "Very Big Slap", and the beleaguered Ms Crassa was asked to submit the budget by next week at the latest. She was also informed that all the Overseas Students' Societies for which she is responsible face having their budgets cut to two-thirds of the amount they received this year.

In defence of Despina, Sarah Corneille, Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) said that she did not think that the OSC had "neglected their duties over the year as a whole, not to the extent where a vote of no confidence would be the correct course of action."

IC's 'secret garden' no longer a mystery

MATTHEW BENNETT

Imperial College has run into problems regarding its acquisition of Prince's Gate gardens, the "secret garden" behind Weeks Hall.

The garden was bought by the College last year for an undisclosed sum of money, rumoured to be in the millions, from the widows of the previous owners. The reasons for the purchase were set out by Ian Caldwell, head of Estates: "...To provide a quality quiet garden area for the academic community to enjoy, with a relatively natural habitat in the middle of our hard urban campus... As a strategic purchase to project the College's long term interests for developing the Sports Centre site and 8 to 15 Princes Gardens."

Mr Caldwell went on to deny suggestions that the college had plans to build anything on top of the garden, admitting that "the planners are unlikely to support this anyway". The possibility of extending the sports centre under the gardens has been examined, but studies concluded it would be more cost effective to build under the tennis courts. However, Mr Caldwell has suggested that the gardens could be open via swipe card access to all members of the college. Initial investigations by *Felix* found this not to be the case, with only residents of Weeks hall being allowed into the garden via the hall, and the path by the side of Weeks. Once access was gained (thanks to a Weeks resident), we discovered that the newly aquired part of the garden was padlocked, and the only way in was through a hole in the fence.

After *Felix* contacted Mr Caldwell for a second time, the swipecard machine now permits access for all students to the garden during the specified opening hours (9am-6pm). The gate was also unpadlocked. The gardens were at last open to the College community for "quiet study and contemplation". However, less



The secretive Prince's Gate Gardens can be seen on this ariel photograph of the South Kensington site, behind Weeks Hall, up and to the left of the familiar dome of the Albert Hall. The garden, larger than the adjacent Prince's Gardens was purchased in the middle of last year to "provide a quality quiet garden area for the academic community to enjoy."

than a week later, a *Felix* reporter reentered the garden to study (it is much quieter than Kensington Gardens, being virtually unknown to all but residents of Weeks Hall), only to find the gate locked and the gardens full of school children.

The garden is bordered by several properties that, although they do not own it, have legal rights set out in the deeds to the properties for access to the garden. In return, subscribers pay an amount towards the upkeep of the garden. The school involved is the Montessori St Nicholas Centre, which is situated on Princes Gate, to the north of the garden. Mr Caldwell stated that, though they have a right to use the garden, this does not extend to the children using the gardens as a playground. The children

were using the garden in such a way that any other users would be prevented from enjoying quiet contemplation, in clear contravention of the "rules" stated on boards in the garden. The College, according to Mr Caldwell, "are not very happy at this and are taking it up in pretty tough terms with them."

A spokesman for the Montessori school said that the pupils are always under supervision when using the garden, and never do so in large groups. He said that the school was pleased to learn that IC had bought the garden, as they felt that the College would protect the garden, and the rights of those who own the properties around it. The school spokesman went on to suggest that the previous owners of the garden

had been dissatisfied with the school's use of the garden, but there was nothing that they could do about it, the rights of access being guaranteed in the deeds. He also claimed that IC had thus far been amicable in their attitude towards the school, but admitted that the College were unhappy with regards to the school's use of the gardens.

The gardens should now open for the College community to use. Students are advised that to gain entry, they should use the gate to the east of Week's hall, and follow the path.

This newly-constructed path was itself the subject of some controversy last year, as building work disrupted the residents of Weeks during the exam revision period.

'Student Affairs' Sabbatical to join gang of four

continued from front page

Alex Feakes, another of ICU's four sabbaticals, questioned Mr Pursey as "expert witness" on the usefulness of the proposal since UCL's Students' Union has, at present, five sabbaticals.

Mr Pursey explained that UCL students had recently discussed the possibility of moving from five to six

sabbaticals for similar reasons, but had come to the conclusion that it wasn't another sabbatical they needed but more union staff at an administrative level. Such permanent staff should filter out day-to-day matters and paperwork, thus reducing the sabbaticals workload and leaving them the time to concentrate on policy issues.

This system is currently being introduced at UCLSU and has proven effective. ICU Council recognised the value of permanent staff and agreed that this would have to be a long term project. Ms Corneille added that she has already reorganised the Union Office's staff, so that next year's Deputy President would have a 'clubs and societies adminis-

trator' to help her.

After some discussion, Council voted in favour of the proposal to create a new post but agreed that much planning is needed before implementation. ICU must also take steps to secure funding for any new members of staff. Any change in the number of ICU sabbaticals must be approved by the Governing Body.

PAST:PRESENT:FUTURE

- A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION -

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Despite cuts in funding, the Union has managed to support and encourage the growth of around 160 Clubs and Societies - so if you are involved in any club or society, the Union is supporting you. There have been many successes including BUSA victories for fencing and snooker, endless achievements by all our sports clubs, an outstanding International Night, shows from Dramsoc and Opsoc, plus the continued success of ICU Cinema (still the 6th largest screen in London) and another 28 issues of your favourite Friday read...

A pressing need for better facilities to aid clubs and societies in their organisation and administration has been perceived, and with this in mind the Easter break will see the conversion of the current Senior Common Room in the Union Building into a Resource Centre. Within this area will be the phones, faxes, pigeonholes, noticeboards, photocopiers, PC's - anything to make running a club easier. An administrator will be appointed to assist you with all the information on sporting fixtures, including details of games, locality, transport and recording of results, and information packs on how to do things (like budgets and events) will be available.

The centre will come on-line on April 21st, and will be accessed through the first floor Union Reception area. This will also have undergone refurbishment in order to provide better access to the centre and the staff working for you in the offices. The current information packs, room bookings and minibus hiring services will remain.

THE UNION SHOP

Our sorrow at no longer being able to sell you books is tempered somewhat with expectation because - in its place from April 21st - will be "The Union Shop". Its going to be a 'totally new shopping experience' of a place, designed to be the equal of any high street stationers, and will sell an extended range of stationery, clothing, computer consumables, and regalia. The exciting design is a product of intense consultation between the designers, students, Union staff and sabbaticals, and (hyperbole aside) its going to be great.

ADVICE CENTRE & REPRESENTATION

The Union Advice Centre continues to give aid and information to students who need help, either through course, housing or other problems. This year private sector accommodation problems have been very much at the fore, and the Union has been pressing the College to take a more active and protective role in this for the vast majority of its students who do not live in hall.

Members of the Union Welfare Committee also took part in a seminar attended by senior tutors and College staff where they highlighted issues relating to sexual harassment and discrimination. They raised the need for a College harassment policy and a clearer framework for settling problems between students and staff.

CAREERS FAIR

Over 2000 students attended November's Careers fair - the biggest union held fair in the country. Companies from all over Europe participated, as the reputation of both the college and the fair itself have spread, so students were able to interrogate a broad range of would-be employees face to face, and find out for themselves (mostly from ex-IC graduates) what working for a particular company would really be like.

**SO, YOU'VE ALL SEEN THE POSTERS:
"YOUR UNION WORKING FOR YOU"
BUT WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?**

**WHAT EXACTLY HAS THE UNION
DONE THIS YEAR, WHAT DOES IT
INTEND TO DO, AND HOW DOES IT
AFFECT YOU ANYWAY?**

BARS

Both DaVinci's and the Union Bar have had hugely successful years, and continue to improve their service by increasing their range of real ales, and cocktails, as well as introducing new products when suggested. The bar has benefited significantly from a raised profile in the college, and should hopefully become less of a sticking point on a Friday night with a nice new floor (again, being done over Easter). One of the bars biggest successes has been the UDH Cocktail Bar, which came about through a students suggestion, and regularly attracts a few hundred up there on bigger nights. Congestion has become a problem, simply due to our immense popularity, and we can only hope for extra space to expand the venue when Biology move out in '98 (and the Medics move in).

CATERING

The ubiquitous £1 curry continues to go from strength to strength, again causing problems with over popularity. The summer refurbishment of dB's seems to have paid off in spades - the extra seating area thus generated is packed every

lunchtime by hungry students. Some of the congestion should be hopefully solved by serving curries them from a separate dispenser in dB's next year, and leaving the main outlet to dispense the other great value meals we produce, but again we wait with bated breath for some extra space to carry out the Grand Expansion Masterplan.

One aspect of catering often overlooked is functions, of which the most notable this year was the ACC Colours Dinner, a medieval style banquet thoroughly enjoyed by all.

ENTS

A much more balanced programme has seen a more successful Ents programme, packing out every Friday night this year. The start of the year saw the opening of dBs, which was a huge improvement on the old Ents lounge, and the improvement has been rewarded with high attendance not only for club nights but

also for the Bust-A-Gut Comedy Club. Next term promises no slacking in pace with Bust-A-Gut playing host to the Open Mic semi finals, with Boothby Graffoe, and Charlie Chuck. There will also be more live music, plus the Summer Carnival will be the Carnival to end all Carnivals.

STAFF TRAINING

ICU has a policy of employing student staff wherever possible, thus generating jobs for financially embarrassed students, as well as a lecture friendly job timetable. We are committed to training all the students we employ, and many have benefited from this by attending courses covering everything from first aid to customer care. This years training and induction day was attended by around 150 students.

Of course it hasn't all been good news this year: the loss of our book selling operation has tied our finances closer to those of the college which - considering the state of higher education funding - is not a position we relish (in real terms our subvention from College was greatly reduced last year), and the withdrawal of College funding for the Commemoration Ball has placed the event in jeopardy for the first time in 48 years. There are also threats from College's plans for Beit Quad (involving a big conference centre and a small Union), and other plans that are under discussion may impact on your life as a student.

Fortunately (this is the cheerful bit) you have us to fight on your behalf, and in perfect honesty (and even if we do say so ourselves) our Union is one of the best in the country, and an ego like that needs support and nurturing.



FELIX Fantasy Sabbatical League

As you all know, the winners and runners up in the Sabbatical Elections were:

Jeremy Thomson for Felix Editor followed by New Election;
Smita Chaturvedi for Deputy President Clubs & Societies followed by Sarah Thomas,
Robert Clark for Deputy President Finance & Services followed by Duncan Tindall; and
New Election followed by Samantha Baker for President.

Now that the Sabbatical Elections are (more-or-less) over, it is time to announce the winner of our Fantasy Sabbatical League competition... and he is:

Jon Hall of Computing III Congratulations!

Jon's team, Notvery Athletic, consisted Mo Dulloo beating AN Other for President; Rob Clark pipping Duncan Tindall at the post for DP (F&S); Sarah Thomas nipping in before anyone else for DP (C&S) and Jeremy Thomson beating someone else for Felix Editor. He scored a total of 35 points.

In second place was Eleanor Rees of Materials II, who's team, The Firm, scored 33 points.

To claim your prizes, you will need to come into the Felix Office in Beit Quad.

Thank you to everyone who entered the Felix Fantasy Sabbatical League Competition and a stiff finger to those who thought it was a hoax!

Felix Fantasy Sabbatical League concept by Robin,
additional labour by Alex. ©Felix 1997.

The Alternative London Fashion Week

If you want to feast your eyes on catwalk upon catwalk of beautiful women, men, and of course clothes; and socialise with the fashion jet set, then the Alternative London Fashion Week is the place to be. It definitely has less snobbery value than its bigger counterpart (as it is free to the public) and the designers are allowed more room for innovation and artistic expression. The fashion shows start at 1.15pm daily, when you will be able to feast your eyes on some serious talents and spot the budding Westwoods, Gallianos and Casely-Hayfords.

There will be weird, wild and wonderful clothes from PVC bondage galore and androgyny by the designer labels Renegade and Spunk, to sensuous silks and elegant feminine attire by bright hopes such as Martin McShane and Lynda Park.

There will also be menswear collections and the most daring club and street wear by designers such as Davina Hawthorne whose collections are described as wet, techno and sexy!

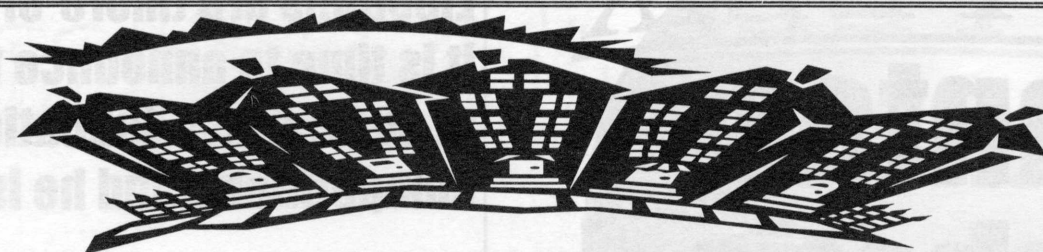
All collections will be showing until 21st march 1997, at Old Spitalfields Market, Brushfield Street, London, E1 (by Liverpool Street Station); and it is a must for all fashion aficionados, culture vultures or even those who simply love beautiful people (the models are courtesy of Storm and Elite Premier). For those who can't make it a review of the whole affair will be in the next issue of *Felix*.

The fashion week is sponsored by Salon Selectives who are also currently launching a feisty "Female DJ of The Year" competition, which gives the girls a chance to penetrate the exclusively male domain of the clubland DJ with the main prize being a contract with a DJ agency; other prizes being the obligatory Salon Selectives products.

Competition entry forms will be available from selected independent record shops nation wide or send a SAE to :-

Salon Selectives
Female DJ Competition
PO BOX 2249
London W1A 1SJ

The competition is only open to amateur female DJs over 18 and closes on 30th April 1997. See you there!



33 week licence?

Need accommodation in student halls over Easter?

**Call into the Conference Office (next to Basic's Pizzeria)
to collect an application form.**

Watts Way, Princes' Gardens, South Kensington

0171 59 49506/7

Student Software Deals

1 + 1 = 3 ?



Mathematica Student Edition v3.0 Win95/NT

£107.00 inc. VAT

Whilst stocks last

Also available – Upgrades from v2.2 to v3.0 at £63.45 inc. VAT

CorelDraw 7 / Win95 - £116.33 inc. VAT



Corel WP Suite 7 / Win 95 - £45.83 inc. VAT

Available from...

CCS SHOP

Level 4

Mechanical Engineering Building

ext. 46953

ccs-shop@ic.ac.uk

9.30am – 5.00pm (Wed 10.00am – 5.00pm)

Place your orders now!!!

Plus lots more...

What are you doing on 1st May?

With the General Election just weeks away *Felix* has gathered together a host of politicians to lay out their stalls and describe why they are worth voting for. We chose the candidates for the 'Cities of London and Westminster', an area which covers Prince's Gardens, Bayswater, Knightsbridge and Buckingham Palace.

We questioned them on issues such as the privatisation of London Underground, their views on the need for a strategic authority for the capital, and other constitutional matters. However space has not allowed for their wisdom on these matters to be displayed. Overleaf is a brief synopsis of their background, their views on tertiary education, its funding, and how they see the local constituency situation.

If for some strange reason you would like to see the full extent of their outpourings, then the full 11,000 word epic is available from the *Felix* office. Otherwise you can read the condensed versions and make up your own mind, or just rely on your own preconceptions.

How to make sure that you get your vote

The easiest way to find your relevant constituency is to use Onlinemagic's 1997 General Election website and their 'Constituency' section. Using your postal code you will be informed of your constituency, the three main party candidates and the relevant Borough. Remember to use the place where you were on 10 October 1996, as this is the address which is used for electoral purposes.

The next stage is, knowing your relevant Council, to find a local library and check to see whether your name is on the electoral register, or alternatively to make a grovelling phone call to the Council. If your name is on their list then you're fine, but if it is not there then you need a Claim Form, which can be obtained from your local Council, some of whose numbers are listed below.

Electoral Registration Offices:

City of Westminster (including Princes Gardens) 0171 798 2730/1
Kensington & Chelsea (including Evelyn Gardens) 0171 361 3444/2052

Hounslow (including Clayponds) 0181 862 5097

What happened last time and what's going to happen this time?

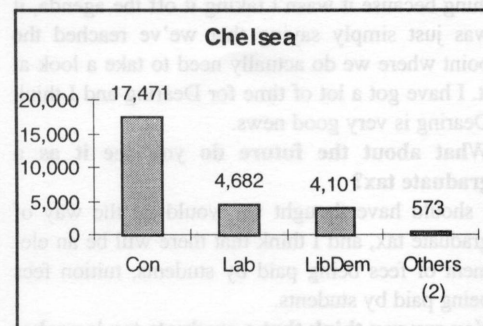
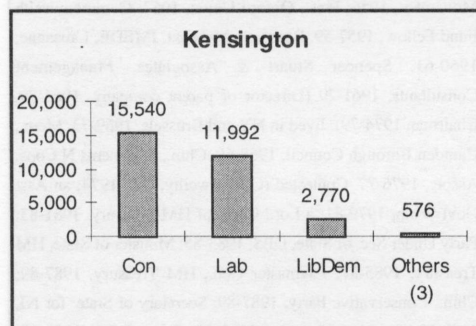
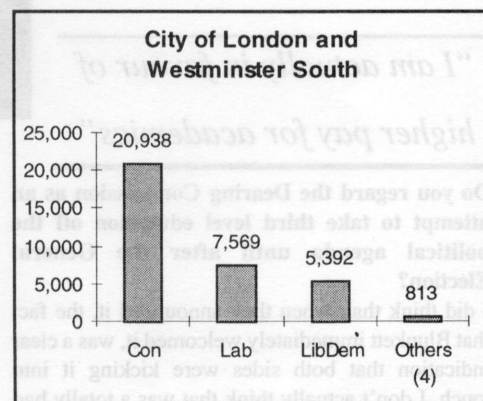
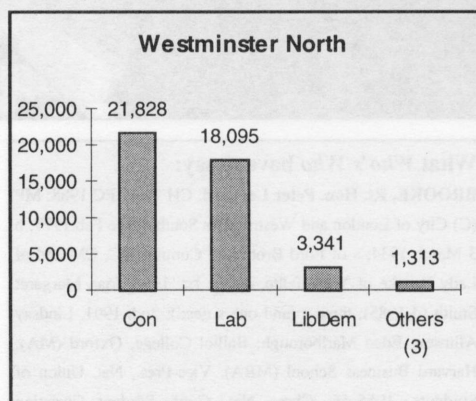
While the 1992 General Election was run with very different constituencies to those that are being used this time round, their results are presented here for comparative purposes. The main change is that the 'Kensington' constituency has been broken up, the majority of which has been added to **Sir Nicholas Scott's** old 'Chelsea' seat to become 'Kensington and Chelsea'. The remainder, five northern wards which had predominantly supported Labour, is being added to the majority of the old 'Westminster North' constituency to become the new 'Regents Park and Kensington North' seat. The final change is that the Bayswater and Lancaster Gate wards, both Conservative minded areas, have been added to **Sir Peter Brooke's** old seat to become the new 'Cities of London and Westminster' constituency.

The above changes mean that **Alan Clark** should have little trouble winning the new 'Kensington and Chelsea' constituency for the Conservatives. Considering the votes cast in the last General Election his party has a 51.5% majority over the Labour Party's contender, **Robert Atkinson**. **Robert Woodthorpe Browne** from the Liberal Democrats is also contesting the seat.

Sir Peter should have an equally easy ride in the new 'Cities of London and Westminster' seat as the redrawn boundaries give him a spectacular 35.2% lead over Labour. **Michael Dumigan** is contesting the constituency for the Liberal Democrats, **Sir Alan Walters** for the Referendum Party and **Kate Green** for the Labour Party.

Regent's Park and Kensington North is very different since using the 1992 votes Labour have a 'notional majority' of 7.3% over the Conservatives in this newly created seat. In Brentford and Isleworth, which includes Clayponds, the high profile Conservative MP, **Nirj Deva** has a majority of 2.8% over Labour. Their candidate is **Ms Ann Keen**, while the Liberal Democrats are putting up **Gareth Hartwell** and the Green Party is fielding **John Bradley**.

The situation in other areas can be found by using Onlinemagic's General Election website.



1997 General Election sites

Onlinemagic
<http://www.ge97.co.uk/>
 The Guardian
<http://election.guardian.co.uk/>
 Keele University
<http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/po/ge97.htm>
 UKOnline
<http://www.ukonline.co.uk/UKOnline/Politics/content.html>

The Main Parties

The Conservative Party
<http://www.conservative-party.org.uk/>
 The Labour Party
<http://www.labour.org.uk/>
 The Liberal Democrats
<http://www.libdems.org.uk/>

Politics Resources

CCTA Government Information Service
<http://www.open.gov.uk/>
 Central Office of Information
<http://www.coi.gov.uk/coi/>
 UK Parliament Home Page
<http://www.Parliament.uk/hophome.htm>
 10 Downing Street
<http://www.number-10.gov.uk/>
 Northern Ireland Public Service
<http://www.nics.gov.uk/>
 Association of University Teachers
<http://www.aut.org.uk/>
 Campaign for Free Education home page
<http://www.llednub.demon.co.uk/cfe/>
 Sam Turner's UK Politics homepage
<http://sun1.bham.ac.uk/turnersj/pollinks.html>

The Rt Hon Peter Brooke, CH PC MP

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I grew up in North London, and apart from evacuation, parts of education, the army and abroad I've been a Londoner all my life. I was a Councillor in North London, and then I became a Member of Parliament again.

You talked about your background in politics, you were a councillor in London before you became an MP?

I was councillor in the Highgate ward of Camden, my father had been a Member of Parliament for Hampstead. I am a sixth generation Member of Parliament, I don't mean in a straight line, but in each generation for the last two centuries there has been a member of my family in the House of Commons, and the very first was the Member of Parliament of Armagh, that's in County Armagh.

For security reasons the former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland declined to say whether he currently lives in the constituency.

"I am actually in favour of higher pay for academics"

Do you regard the Dearing Commission as an attempt to take third level education off the political agenda until after the General Election?

I did think that, when they announced it, the fact that Blunkett immediately welcomed it, was a clear indication that both sides were kicking it into touch. I don't actually think that was a totally bad thing because it wasn't taking it off the agenda, it was just simply saying that we've reached the point where we do actually need to take a look at it. I have got a lot of time for Dearing and I think Dearing is very good news.

What about the future do you see it as a graduate tax?

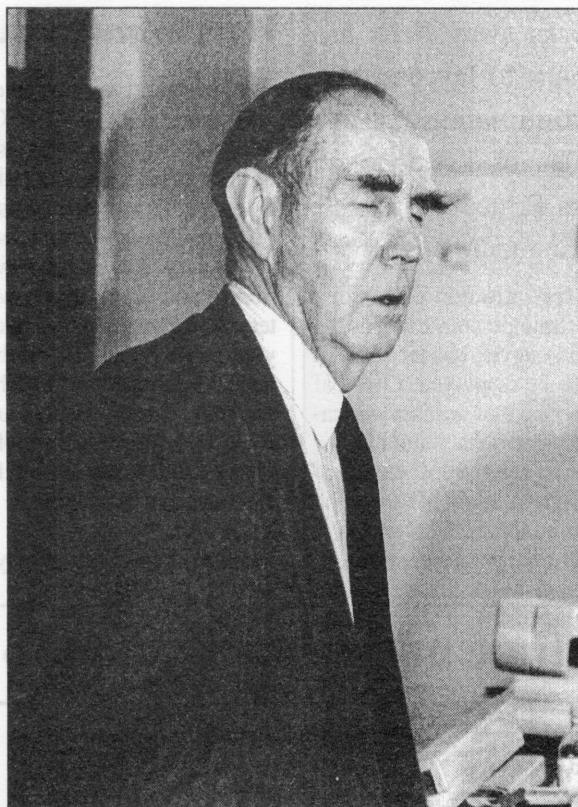
I should have thought we would go the way of graduate tax, and I think that there will be an element of fees being paid by students, tuition fees being paid by students.

You say you think that a graduate tax is probably the way we're going, you're not terribly worried by this?

Every time this government has changed the arrangements, of all the changes that have made since 1983, there have been statements that this is the end of civilisation as we know it, and civilisation doesn't seem to have come to an end. The number of people coming into higher education had continued to expand dramatically and more than half the student body are now mature students, I think it is a remarkable success story.

So basically you accept that it's going to happen and that it's not a big disaster?

I think that it's going to happen, I can't predict the precise manner in which it's going to happen, at the moment only one in thirteen of the people who are repaying student loans are defaulting on them,



What Who's Who have to say:

BROOKE, Rt. Hon. Peter Leonard, CH 1992; PC 1988; MP (C) City of London and Westminster South, since Feb. 1977; b 3 March 1934; s of Lord Brooke of Cumnor, PC, CM and of Lady Brooke of Ystradfellte, qv; m 1st, 1964, Joan Margaret Smith (d 1985); three s (and one s dead); 2nd, 1991, Lindsay Allinson. Educ Marlborough; Balliol College, Oxford (MA); Harvard Business School (MBA). Vice-Pres., Nat. Union of Students, 1955-56; Chm., Nat. Conf. Student Christian Movement, 1956; Pres., Oxford Union, 1957; Commonwealth Fund Fellow, 1957-59. Research Assistant, IMEDE, Lausanne, 1960-61. Spencer Stuart & Associates, Management Consultants, 1961-79 (Director of parent company, 1965-79, Chairman 1974-79); lived in NY and Brussels, 1969-73. Mem., Camden Borough Council, 1968-69. Chm., St Pancras N Cons. Assoc., 1976-77. Contested (C) Bedwelty, Oct. 1974; an Asst Govt Whip, 1979-81; a Lord Comr of HM Treasury, 1981-83; Parly Under Sec. of State, DES, 1983-85; Minister of State, HM Treasury, 1985-87; Paymaster Gen., HM Treasury, 1987-89; Chm., Conservative Party, 1987-89; Secretary of State for NI, 1989-92; for Nat. Heritage, 1992-94. Pres., IAPS, 1980-83; Mem. Council, Marlborough Coll., 1977-83, 1992-; Lay Adviser, St Paul's Cathedral, 1980-; Lay Mem., Univ. of London Council, 1994-; Chm., Churches Conservation Trust, 1995-; Trustee: Wordsworth Trust, 1975-; Cusichaca Project, 1978-; Conf. on Trng in Archtl Conservation, 1994-; Sen. Fellow, RCA, 1987; Presentation Fellow, KCL, 1989. Recreations: churches, conservation, cricket, visual arts. Address: c/o House of Commons, SW1A 0AA. Clubs: Beefsteak, Brooks's, City Livery, MCC, I Zingari, St George's (Hanover Square) Conservative.

so it looks as though that was working reasonably well.

You talked about the AUT before, I'm sure you saw the press coverage and everything they got for their recent strikes, did you particularly oppose those strikes?

I didn't actually see them, so I can't actually make any comment on them, I hadn't actually realised they had been on strike. I am actually in favour of higher pay for academics, I think you run the risk if you don't actually make it an attractive profession, you run the risk of them going to other parts of the world if you make the rate of return less than satisfactory.

Why should the Science and Technology Minister not be a Cabinet position?

There is a limit to how many cabinet ministers you can have, there is actually a statutory limit, you can't more than a certain number of ministers. At the moment it isn't even done at Minister of State level, it's done at a Parliamentary Secretary level. It so happens that the man who's doing it at the moment is extremely good, he's actually very well qualified for doing it. We had a shared responsibility when Mr Waldegrave was doing it, where he was both doing science and doing the civil service, and all those aspects of the public sector. I can't remember what took William out of it.

"I am a sixth generation Member of Parliament"

Do you see science and technology as important enough to warrant a cabinet position?

I don't think that it's a big enough job for it to be the only job that somebody did, therefore I had no difficulty at all with William Waldegrave's contribution and I gather it was regarded as extremely effective within the science community.

So is that an acceptance that it is important enough?

In my view you would have to have a strong reason for not giving to cabinet level responsibility.

Do you know the Referendum Party candidate, Sir Alan Walters [former aide to Margaret Thatcher]?

I know him slightly because he was of course at No. 10. I was in and out of No. 10, and of course I saw him then, but I don't like him well. He was the economic adviser.

Presumably you would have some respect for him then?

Of course I do, of course you would have respect for him.

Do you expect him to gain very many votes?

Well he will gain a number of votes, a number of votes from people who feel very strongly. A number of people have very kindly written to me and told me that they're going to vote for him. Nice thing about being a Member of Parliament, they're people whom I have had dealings with in the past on constituency matters and they've written, in a sense almost apologising, and I've written back and we've had a good discussion. So there are some people who do it because they feel very strongly about it, and there will be other people who want to do it because they want to exercise a protest vote of one sort or another.



Kate Green (extreme left) at Imperial College supporting last December's AUT led strike

What background do you come from, professionally and educationally?

I was educated in Scotland and went to university in the end in Edinburgh, where I graduated in law, which is absolutely no use down here at all because it's Scots law and it's completely different, and then I came down to London to work for Barclays.

What about prior to university?

I lived in Midlothian which is in Scotland, southern Scotland, went to school in, well you won't heard of it, a place called Currie.

From a political point of view, where do you come from?

I've been involved on and off over the years in politics, and certainly in this constituency, in the Cities of London and Westminster, for about the last five or six years since I came back to live in London.

You haven't stood as a councillor?

No, no I haven't. By way of background, I live in the City of London personally, the City, we have put Labour candidates up from time to time but the City Corporation is a very odd political animal which effectively doesn't organise on party lines.

So you do actually live in the constituency?

I live in the constituency yeah, and I work in it as well. I work in Westminster for Barclays Bank.

I've been in Westminster

for about nine months, I was at Piccadilly Circus for two or three years before that, and for years

before that in the Head Office, which is in the City.

Where do you stand on the funding of third level education, how do you see the future?

First of all I'm very opposed to top up fees, and I will carry on taking that position. I don't think the current student loans system is working at all, it's loading up huge debts for students which they then have to pay off over a very short period really. And I think that's deterring particularly less well off families from going into education, and I think it's also very important that institutions aren't put in a position where they're competing against one another either for research monies or to attract the best students.

Do you see the future as a revamped student loans system, or as a graduate tax?

I'm not sure what you would call it, I think that it's unrealistic now to expect that a system of grants is going to be sufficient, but it's very important that we structure a repayment programme to the time when they are best able to make the repayments.

Surely there are quite significant differences from a National Insurance led system where you pay for your lifetime, and having fixed amount to pay back?

I think you've got to look at something which is in between the two otherwise for example

you're penalising people who take more expensive courses or who take a longer course, so that architects for example would be paying back a lot more than people on three year courses in perhaps the Arts or something. But I don't think that it's fair either to say to students that you've got this indefinite burden for life, if you're genuinely talking about recouping the cost of supporting them during their education you can't say you've got to pay that back for ever and ever until your income dries up.

In the Labour Party's submission to Dearing they seemed to outline

a plan for a learning bank, how long would it take to put it into place?

I think it's something they would want to try to do reasonably quickly. I

don't think that there's any intention, that there won't be undergraduates going through university programmes, post-graduate programmes and so on.

So it could be quite some years before undergraduate degrees at Imperial are for instance part of that?

I guess what will happen is that bits of them will get into it before other bits, so you might say there are parts, especially degrees at Imperial I would imagine, bits that are very vocational or very technical that could be really closely allied to people's perhaps technical on the job training, obviously at a fairly high level.

So you might start going through the colleges

New Labour's Kate Green

and universities and start taking parts?

And getting some sort of credit for them, now that's going to require a quite radical big thinking for institutions that have traditionally really only had to think within their own operation.

Wasn't the Dearing Commission an attempt to take third level education funding off the political agenda, and didn't the Labour Party collude in this?

I'm not sure whether that was the reason it was set up, I don't think you can take tertiary education funding out of the political agenda, it matters far too much to too many people and there's too much money in it.

So you wouldn't say that it is an attempt, a fairly crude attempt, to put it off the agenda?

I hope it isn't, I'd be very, very dismayed if it were, and I'd be ashamed, and I would think that it would be a real betrayal of the next generations, for those of us who've been lucky enough to get that education to sit back and say oh we're not really going to bother about how it's funded for the future.

Will Labour reinstate the Science and Technology Minister to Cabinet?

Gosh I don't know, I really haven't a clue, but I mean I think, we've got to have a huge commitment to making the importance of science and technology much more visible.

So you didn't think it was a problem taking the OST [Office of Science and Technology] within the DTI [Department of Trade and Industry]?

I'm not sure that I've got a really strong view one way or another. I do think it's very, very important to get the profile raised. We need to look at all the ways we can of raising that, and that might well mean considering whether we've got the organisation within the government itself right.

Do you accept that there's realistically no possibility that Labour is going to win this seat?

Do the Tories have any safe seats? I'll say to you quite openly, Labour is targeting first of all those seats which we must take to get a decent majority in Parliament, and in the order of those seats which we must take, Cities of London and Westminster is fairly low down.

Was this the only constituency where you applied to be a candidate?

No I applied to a few others, two or three not very many. I was really quite focused because it's a very time consuming process and I wanted to learn how to do it.

Mike Dumigan from the Liberal Democrats

What sort of background do you come from?

I was born in Northern Ireland, near Belfast, Lisburn, a town which is where the army are stationed in Northern Ireland. I spent a fair part my youth in the west [of Ireland], Swinford, Co. Mayo. The reason why I don't have a particularly good Belfast accent is that any time I wasn't going to school in Belfast, I was off in Mayo.

Where did you go to school in Belfast?

It was LaSalle, which is just off the Falls Road, not a particularly gentle and easy going place. Sort of Jesuitical brothers, it was quite a tough schooling. And then QUB [Queens University, Belfast] studied genetics, and then on without any break to do an MBA in Manchester Business School.

And what have you done since then?

Then I've worked for a living. In advertising agencies and design consultancies and marketing consultancies. That's my livelihood, so I've been doing that for ten years, slightly longer.

How long have you lived in the constituency then?

For 8-10 years, so apart from two years in Manchester I've lived in London, and always interestingly enough in the constituency. Well the interesting thing about the advertising world is that it's all centred around the west end, up as far as Paddington, but never as far as the East End. So you can be in every single one of the top twenty agencies and never leave the constituency.

What about in the constituency itself, have you been active in the constituency?

Yes I've been Chairman of the constituency party of the Liberal Democrats for a few years. I've stood for a local Council seat, and I wasn't successful in a seat where there has traditionally been a strong Tory majority.

You still obviously take a very strong interest in the local council?

Well, a constituency MP needs to understand what local issues are. So if the local electorate are allegedly being defrauded of seven million pounds, then whatever your position in public life you should be concerned about it. Particularly if you happen to be a student and are concerned about lack of spending in education, it should be of interest that seven million quid is being pissed away somewhere else.

Do you regard the Dearing Commission as an attempt to take third level education off the political agenda?

Well I think the fact that it's reporting after the general election is clearly an attempt to take tertiary education off the agenda until after that, and that the Conservatives see is advantageous to them. Equally I think Labour sees a great advantage to their party. They have refused to put forward to increase spending on tertiary level education, or

indeed on education at any level, and do not have any precise plans on tertiary level education. So yes I think the fact that Ron Dearing will report after the General Election is very much or was very much a political decision.

And what about your party's submission to the commission, what approach did it take?

Well as a party we have a view that tertiary education is vitally important. We do think our approach is new in that we think that there are three sources of funding for tertiary level education, one is government, two is employers or future employers, and three is the student body and we think that all three have a contribution to make. It's significantly different [to Labour's proposals] in that education in tertiary level will remain completely free under all the Liberal Democrats proposals, but for subsistence, accommodation etc.

"it should be of interest that seven million quid is being pissed away"

we believe that students may be making a contribution themselves and that would be funded, rather than the government system where the funding is through high street banks, through a government body and that would be paid back from people's wages as a percentage of that so that if you're not working you're not paying back, so it's only paid back when some can afford to pay back, when they're earning at a high enough rate to do so.

Would you accept that there aren't really major difference between you and Labour?

No, I think there are fundamental differences, I think the fact we have stated that we'll spend an extra £2bn on education and some of that will be spent on tertiary education and that's a commitment we make is a

"we have stated that we'll spend an extra £2bn on education"

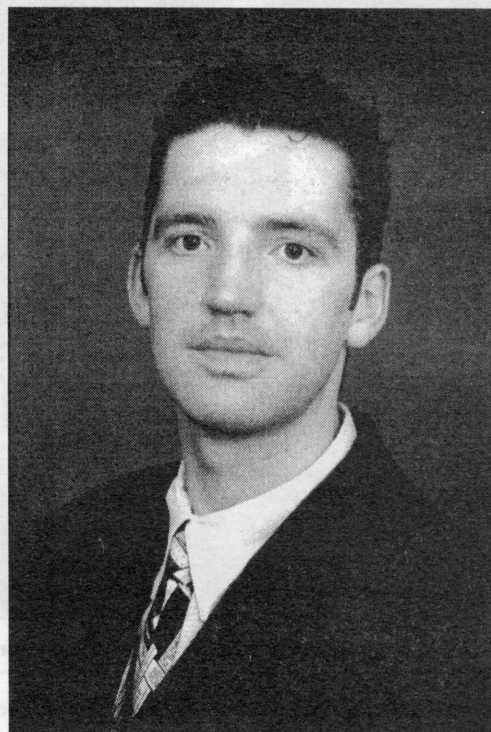
real difference. Where Labour do not make any actual financial commitment and do not state their policies with any detail then you take the risk, it's like the lottery.

You've committed to spend an extra £2bn, you've haven't committed to spend any precise amount of money on existing third level education, is that correct?

We have committed to spend part of those additional revenues we gain on tertiary education, we just haven't set a sum, not to my knowledge, it may be that our education spokesman has done something in the last few days that I'm unaware of.

You've got your pre-primary you've got your existing primary and secondary, and you've got your extra adult education?

We make a commitment to each of those areas. You've got at least four priorities there before you get on to the existing tertiary structure, so you would accept that the existing tertiary structure is not exactly very high up?



No I wouldn't, I think it's absolutely a key priority. Politics is about balances you cannot say that educating a three year old is more important than educating a seven year old, which is more important than educating a seventeen year old or a twenty year old, because you have to educate that person through their life. So if we bolster up one area of education, because we take that what I call the holistic approach we're naturally bolstering up the rest, otherwise there is a weak link.

Does your party or do you personally have any preference as to reinstating the Science and Technology Minister to Cabinet level?

I'm not absolutely certain we have a view on that. My personal view is that science, technology and information technology is absolute key to the future success of this country and also key to empowering of individuals. This country I think fails miserably in the investment it puts into science and technology and I do think that government

should play a much stronger role into trying to bolster those areas and if that means the Minister in Cabinet then personally I'm all in

favour of it.

So you are personally in favour?

Mm.

But your party you don't think has a position on the matter?

I'm genuinely unsure.

With the Liberal Democrats coming third in this area in 1992, Mr Dumigan denied that he had no chance of winning the seat and emphasised that he didn't want people to vote tactically in this constituency. He went on to say that he would "probably" be contesting the next general election in the same constituency and insisted that this was the only seat where had sought to be the Liberal Democrat candidate. On hearing that his Labour opponent had tried "two or three" other constituencies he suggested that Ms Green could be described as a "carpet bagger".

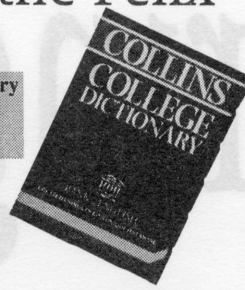
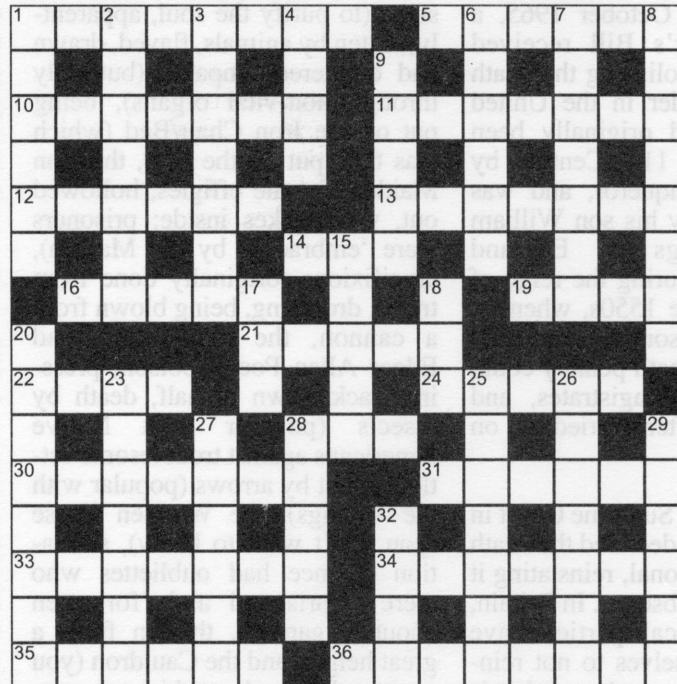
Across:

1. Applaud small change hesitations that sound bells. (8)
5. Jo in France primarily discovers samples of sea inlets. (6)
10. To the French right, verbal sound of Northern lights? (8)
11. Throw holy queen to a sea creature! (7)
12. Think about part of a wreck on the sea bed. (6)
13. Burn cream tea without Angolan ambassador? (7)
14. Part of something in Arab items of clothing. (3)
16. King disapproves of two novices on the hill. (5)
19. Land mass exists, the French conclude. (4)
21. Fill with high spirits after the Spanish took breakfast. (5)
22. Eastern time. Church cast in stone. (4)
24. First book concerning it's type. (5)
28. Stitch up in surprise win. (3)
30. Gas one element about circular article in a state. (8)
31. Thrower of sugar perhaps. (6)
33. To a degree, Conservative business sells plant leaves. (7)
34. Bordered on a bath turned upside-down by Edward, perhaps. (7)
35. Compulsion by use of force is fitting about river ship. (6)
36. Predict that feet roll when deformed. (8)

Win a Collins College Dictionary with the Felix Prize Crossword

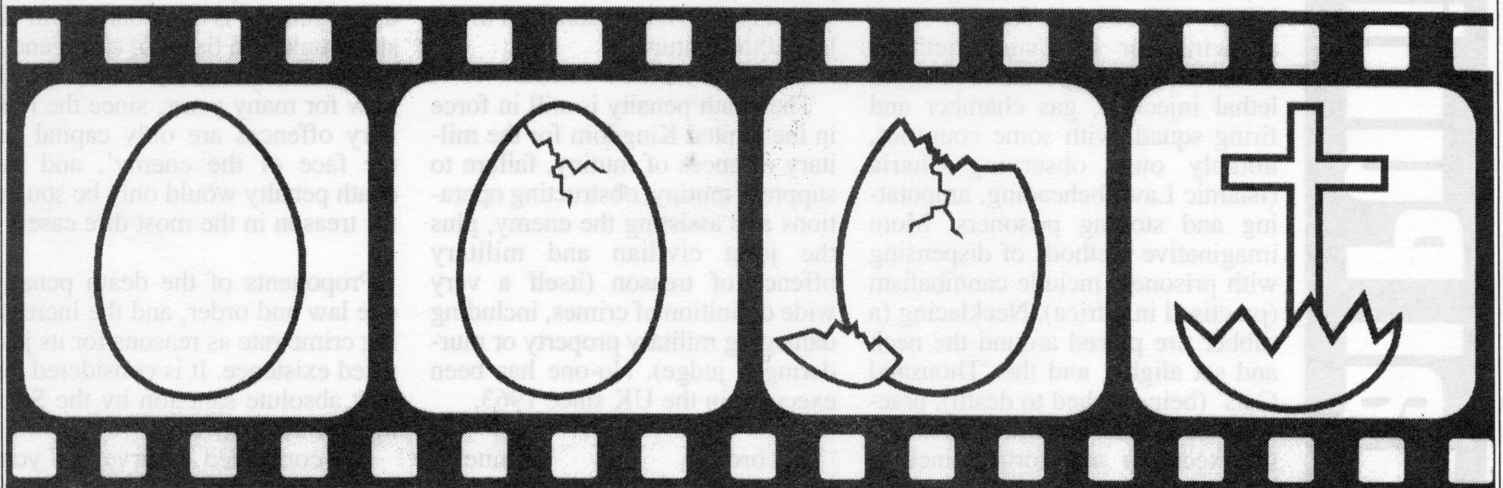
On offer this week is a **Collins College Dictionary** to the first correct entry out of the hat. Entries to the **Felix Office** by 2.00pm Monday 21st April.

The winner of issue 1081's crossword competition was Jay Heavisides of Chem Eng 1. To collect your prize pop into Felix.

**CROSSWORD BY CLANSMAN****Down:**

1. Seats greeting in forms of transport. (6)
2. A father I can confuse with a continental person. (7)
3. Even swelling subject to uncomfortable heat. (7)
4. Move a piece of bread. (4)
6. Utter rapidly, we hear, when shifted suddenly from one side of the vessel to the other. (6)
7. London Underground stair broken by religious ceremonies. (7)
8. Displayer of film is in a state concerning measure of queen. (8)
9. Decide to let church get mixed up. (5)
15. Picture of one mother with German and English ambassadors. (5)
17. Limb in part of horrible guts! (3)
18. Plead for small insect, for example. (3)
20. Left after part in the action. (8)
23. Element I am born with. Queen plant. (7)
25. Deletion of a pop group. (7)
26. Change heading of letter I damaged. (7)
27. Sounds of nothing in bad habits. (6)
28. Talk about first Venezuelan official in a hotel. (5)
29. Drab state in a mess. Relating to the bride. (6)
32. Circle of goodness initially has alternative light origins. (4)

JESUS DID NOT DIE SO YOU COULD HAVE EASTER EGGS



GET THE REAL FACTS : JESUS DIED AND ROSE AGAIN - FOR YOU

Come and Join us next term for some great Christian meetings on campus

SUNDAY CELEBRATION

EVERY SUNDAY
6PM
CIVIL ENGINEERING
ROOM 201

SMALL GROUP MEETING

EVERY THURSDAY
7:30PM
10 PRINCES' GARDENS
(BASEMENT)

HIS PEOPLE BIBLE SCHOOL

EVERY WEDNESDAY
7:00PM
CIVIL ENGINEERING
ROOM 141

CONTACT US ON E-MAIL : PHINDILE : p.masangane@jc.ac.uk OR ext 55758
FRANS : franso.amplc@dial.pipex.com

HIS PEOPLE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Is Capital Punishment justified?

String 'em up?

On the 28th of October 1965, a Private Member's Bill received Royal Assent, abolishing the death penalty for murder in the United Kingdom. It had originally been abolished in the 11th Century by William the Conqueror, and was then reinstated by his son William Rufus. Hangings in England reached a peak during the reign of Edward VI in the 1550s, when on average, one person was executed every day. The death penalty could be imposed by magistrates, and hangings were often carried out on village greens.

In the 1970s, the Supreme Court in the United States declared the death penalty constitutional, reinstating it after a period of absence. In Britain, all major political parties have committed themselves to not reinstating the death penalty, and it is considered politically very dangerous to support it. In contrast, the rate of executions are rising in the USA, with 38 of the 50 states allowing for it. Usual methods include hanging, electrocution, lethal injection, gas chamber and firing squad, with some countries, notably ones observing Sharia (Islamic Law) beheading, amputating and stoning prisoners. More imaginative methods of dispensing with prisoners include cannibalism (practised in Africa), Necklacing (a rubber tire placed around the neck and set alight), and the 'Thousand Cuts' (being lashed to death), practised in China. Historical methods of execution and torture include being boiled alive (used against poisoners in medieval England), being buried alive, burnt at the

stake (to purify the soul, apparently), eaten by animals, flayed, drawn and quartered, impaled (but only through non-vital organs), being put on the Iron Chair/Bed (which was then put on the fire), the Iron Maiden (female effigies, hollowed out, with spikes inside: prisoners were 'embraced' by the Maiden), crucifixions (originally done from trees), drowning, being blown from a cannon, the pendulum (read Edgar Allan Poe?), poison, pressing, rack, sawn in half, death by insects (popular with Native Americans against troublesome settlers), shot by arrows (popular with the Vikings), the Wooden Horse (you don't want to know), starvation (France had oubliettes who were imprisoned and 'forgotten about.'), garrotte, thrown from a great height, and the Cauldron (you want to know about this one even less). There are plenty of international treaties banning such horrific punishments, but it makes me feel very happy to have been born in the late 20th Century!

The death penalty is still in force in the United Kingdom for the military offences of mutiny, failure to suppress mutiny, obstructing operations and assisting the enemy, plus the joint civilian and military offence of treason (itself a very wide definition of crimes, including damaging military property or murdering a judge). No-one has been executed in the UK since 1963.

According to Amnesty International, 2331 prisoners were executed last year (the actual figure is believed to be much higher), with

China scooping the prize with 1791 executions, 77% of the world's total. Only five countries executed juveniles in the last few years: Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United States and Yemen, with the USA executing more than any other.

The death penalty will forever remain one of the most controversial world-wide political issues, although its media exposure in Britain is reduced. One of the most controversial executions in recent years was that of Jesse DeWayne Jacobs, who was executed in Texas in January last year, with the victim's family, and the original prosecutor and court judge protesting his innocence. The Supreme Court ruled that it could not overturn the original jury's verdict. This even managed to evoke a response from the Vatican, which described it as "monstrous and absurd".

Under European Union Law, the death penalty is now banned in all states unless in times of emergency. This has been the case with British Law for many years, since the military offences are only capital 'in the face of the enemy', and the death penalty would only be sought for treason in the most dire cases.

Proponents of the death penalty cite law and order, and the increasing crime rate as reasons for its justified existence. It is considered the best absolute sanction by the State against the truly evil.

We conducted a survey of your views, results opposite. Please write and tell us your opinions.

HAMISH

String 'em up?

Pro

"Many 'monsters' offer equally impenetrable exteriors. They are eliminated on the mere consideration of the facts. Apparently the nature or the magnitude of their crimes allows no room for imagining that they can ever repent or reform. They must merely be kept from doing it again, and there is no other solution but to eliminate them. On this frontier, and on it alone, discussion about the death penalty is legitimate..."

Albert Camus, "Reflections on the Guillotine"

Perhaps the best demonstration of a judiciary system that includes the sanction of death for the most serious of crimes is the USA. 38 states practise the death penalty, and there are also 60 capital federal crimes, with federal law stating that the method of execution shall not be cruel or unusual. These states execute, not because it has been shown to be an effective deterrent; but that it is a fitting punishment for crimes such as murder.

Execution is surrounded by such a stigma that sends a signal that the crime committed is utterly immoral. As a society we have a duty to display the intolerance of immoral behaviour.

Every person is a single moral entity that is capable of decision, right or wrong. In just the same way that many people are praised for their good moral decisions, criminals should be punished for their immoral decisions. This makes justice seem vengeful, but justice is just that, regulated revenge by society for immoral deeds with a punishment to fit the crime.

Punishment by death for murderers equilibrates the weight placed on the life of the victim and that of the murderer; without such punishment the murderer's life appears to be more sacred than the of the victim. Removing murderers from society takes away the capacity of and forcibly prevents the recurrence of violence, maximising public safety. Figures have shown that over 10% of people on death row are there for more than one murder. Had they been sentenced to death, rather than life with the possibility of parole, than innocent lives may well have been saved.

But surely state sanctioned murder is one of the greatest invasions of our civil rights? Civil rights should be inherent in our society, but a deliberate deviation from what society expects should be punishable by the removal of such rights. We don't complain when thieves are imprisoned, for they have voluntarily given up, in their decision to steal, their rights of freedom. People who deliberately kill have invaded an innocent person's right to life, and have given up all their own civil rights in their decision to commit murder. Society should have the right to reduce the civil rights of people by a level that fits the crime, which in the case of pre-meditated murder is death.

The death penalty is a means by which society can regulate its moral standing. The sanction of execution for intentionally causing the death ensures that things remain equal between the criminal and victim, which essentially is society itself.

Survey Questions

1. Are there still capital offences in the United Kingdom? (*yes there are*)
2. Do you think it acts as a deterrent?
3. Are you generally in favour of capital punishment?
4. Should Britain extradite people to face charges for a capital offence?
5. Do you think under 18s should be eligible for the death penalty?
6. Are you in favour of public executions?

The deliberate, methodical and pre-meditated termination of someone's life is an action abhorrent to all of us who believe we live in a civilised and enlightened society. Collectively we choose to punish those who breach this fundamental of humanity.

This is right and proper, for the foundations of our society has to be tested continuously. However, in some parts of our global society legitimate governments have discarded the advances of thousands of years of civilisation and taken themselves as low as the perpetrators of murderous crime by the use of a deliberate, methodical termination of someone's life as a deterrent.

The validity of this deterrent should not be in question. It is mediaeval and barbaric, inhumane and fecund and has no place in any modern society. The usefulness of this torturous treatment is also in doubt. Surveys and statistics have shown repeatedly that the effect on the levels of crime is minimal and is often instigates an increase.

The power that is inherent in capital punishment is widely abused by those who have no right to end another human's life. Look, for example, at the overwhelming proportion of black inmates on death-row in America's southern states. The ratio exceeds by far that of crimes committed by black people. The death of a murderer does not make up for the death of his victim, but imprisonment and rehabilitation may lead to some repayment to society by the criminal. Also, the death of a prisoner takes no account of the possibility of a mistake in the legal process, as has happened several times in recent years. Indeed, one of the last people to be hanged in Britain was later found to be innocent. Who then shall we hang in their stead?

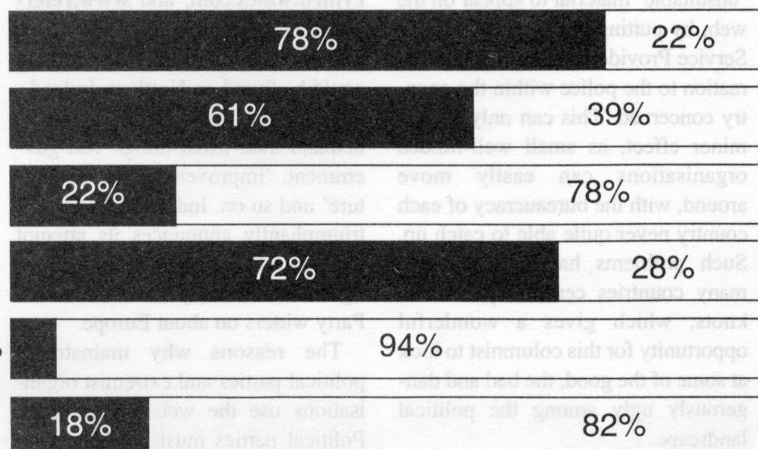
As for the British who may think that they can rest on their laurels and say that the death penalty has been abolished in the Sixties, it wasn't. The punishment can still be given for the civilian and military offence of treason and several other military offences. Still feel loyal to our country?

I shall quote an example of the premeditated torture that we inflict upon our fellow humans. John Evans, who was executed by electrocution in 1983, was given three charges over a period of 14 minutes. After the first and second charges, Mr Evans was still conscious and there was smoke coming from all over body as a result of his burning flesh.

When it comes to the crunch, death row is not filled with the serial killers and cold-blooded murderers that we imagine, but people who invariably poor, are usually of below average intelligence, and have led unglamorous and undistinguished lives. They find themselves up against a system driven by the need for revenge, and are in no position to counter it. It is not a system we can be proud of.

Anti

Yes No Survey Responses



As regular readers of this column will know, every now and then I get caught with my trousers down. Statistically, that is. And so it appeared last week following Mike Hansen's letter. I thought that this might be picked up on, since I was less than sure about its veracity, but being a responsible journalist I thought what the Hell and went ahead with it. Then, better late than never, I checked it out. Nottingham, so their General Office tell me, have 15,600 students. Figures provided by my friends in the Registry say that we have 7,790 (1995/96). Since number of students has some bearing on university size, let's say that they are about twice as big as us. Using Mr Hansen's own figures, since Nottingham have yet to respond, we have 30% more staff in our Finance function than an organisation that is 100% bigger. Make of that, ladies and gentlemen, what you will.

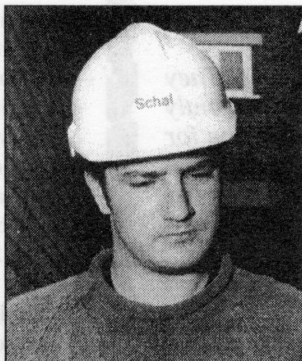
The highly entertaining series on the great and the good of IC reached Personnel last week. First rate interview, but I suspect that a couple of questions were cut for reasons of space. They might have been the following. Firstly, how do you justify a

department which consumes over £1million annually and requires 33 staff? My limited experience of industry suggest that this is over the top. If this department has been rationalised,

I dread to think what Dr Kimberley inherited; incidentally, I thought restructuring was intended to cut costs not decrease workload. Not content with 33 staff, we see that this number will rise by a third when the medical mergers are completed. This is getting ridiculous, particularly when one notes that some of these staff will, if I understand correctly, be handing out P45s to some of the technical support staff from Mary's lost in the merger. Secondly, why is it damned near impossible to remove staff who are clearly incompetent or superfluous - the only example that springs to mind is the Mary's cashier that half-inched £650,000. Perhaps I am being a little harsh, since Marion Kimberley is relatively new in the job, and I have every confidence that

she will rapidly realise the lunacy of what was probably handed to her on her arrival. Time will tell. Incidentally, I appreciated, though

Simon Baker



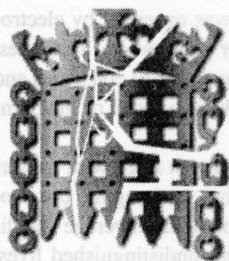
Voice of Reason

totally disagreed with, the force of your convictions on the monarchy and the hereditary principle. Since property lies at the centre of this, I naturally assume that you will not make a will, so as to avoid charges of hypocrisy.

Away from SW7, it was marvellous to see that my master plan for the welfare state is becoming government policy (there's modesty for you). The effective privatisation of pensions will ensure that we, the first generation to benefit if it comes to fruition, will receive substantially more money than our parents for much less outlay. The net result should be a saving of about £40 billion per year from 2040 onwards. In today's prices that would allow an income tax cut of about 22p. The potential for economic growth stemming from this policy is awe-

some, and it is good to see such a long-term outlook taken on an issue which could become very serious if left alone, as is the case in Germany and France. The pensions deficit in Germany is predicted to be 430% of GDP in 40 years, in other words \$16 trillion. Yet again, we lead and Europe follows, as they surely will.

Some of you will remember that at times I have been less than charitable about Schal. Unfortunately, those with the best memories all seem to work on the BMS project, so it was with some trepidation that I accepted an invitation to look around the site. I must say that I was very impressed and found it most enjoyable. Thanks must go to Phil Hilton and Oliver Clarke who gave the tour, but a special mention is in order for the 120+ men (and women) currently on the site. An altogether un-motley crew, who resisted numerous opportunities to throw me off the top of the building. Without meaning to sound incredibly patronising (who, me?), these lot really know the score, with the project on time and to budget, in stark contrast to every other IC project in living memory. Shame they're giving it to the medics...



Westminster Eye - Hamish Common

And now for something completely different. The arrival of the internet has brought with it political parties of all hues. This has been a silent revolution to the 95% of the country who don't have a modem (and couldn't care less anyway), but has caused friction on the issue of censorship and the question of jurisdiction over the net.

Of course, no one country does have jurisdiction: national laws are merely bye-laws covering a small portion of the net. What can be done is to make it more difficult for 'unsuitable' material to appear on the web, by putting pressure on Internet Service Providers, and passing information to the police within the country concerned. This can only have a minor effect, as small well-funded organisations can easily move around, with the bureaucracy of each country never quite able to catch up. Such problems have already tied many countries censorship laws in knots, which gives a wonderful opportunity for this columnist to look at some of the good, the bad and dangerously ugly among the political landscape.

Naturally, the mainstream political parties have a professional if rather bland presence on the web, accessible at www.conservative-party.org.uk, www.labour.org.uk, and www.libdems.org.uk. The Conservative and Labour websites do look worryingly similar to each other, but all three have the usual mix of membership information, their own spin on major news stories, plus various other titbits including Labour's on-line shop. Smaller parliamentary parties are well represented on the web, including the Scottish National Party, Plaid Cymru (Welsh Nationalists), and the ubiquitous Referendum Party, at www.snp.org.uk, www.plaid-cymru.wales.com, and www.referendum.org.uk. The two nationalist parties (it is interesting that nothing could be found on Northern Ireland - anyone out there know of any?) demand their usual things: self-government, 'improvements to our culture' and so on. Indeed Plaid Cymru triumphantly announces its attempt for Wales to join the United Nations - good luck! Finally, the Referendum Party witters on about Europe.

The reasons why mainstream political parties and extremist organisations use the web are different. Political parties must be seen to up

with the latest technology (being old-fashioned is rarely in vogue) and a web site is a good way of doing this. The political benefits are small: only a tiny number of people have internet access, and are unlikely to change allegiance due to a trendy site. It is more a case of not looking a fool in front of other parties by having an obviously inferior site, with all the unfavourable media attention that that may bring. There was a case in December last year, when a group calling themselves the Digital Anarchists hacked into Labour's web site, replaced Blair's photo with his Spitting Image puppet, added links to porn sites and generally amused themselves at Labour's expense.

The web is a much more powerful tool for extremist organisations, however, and there plenty of them to be found. Given their nature as small and often international organisations, the web provides a perfect medium for information and contacts to be established cheaply and quickly. Such sites include: British National Party, at ngwwmall.com/frontier/bnp/, Crosstar: www.nationalist.org, the New Communist Party of Great Britain, at www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/2853, and the Natural Law Party at www.natural-law-party.org.uk. It is worth noting

that these sites are far more sensible - many professionally produced - than their usual image would suggest. The BNP's website informs us that they do not condone violence, and take care to remain within the law regarding racial relations. Digging a little deeper, the racial supremacists' discussion groups are brimming with racist ranting, so there is little doubt as to the real motives of the parties. The Communist Party's site is a fairly sensible discussion on socialism and communism, talking of what might be realistically attainable and discussing mainstream political events in a socialist light.

Although the web is only a minor part of political debate - newspapers and television and infinitely more powerful tools for publicity - it is an interesting one. It is not only a medium for publicity but the subject of much publicity itself, partly due to some of the organisations listed above. It may not necessarily do much to further political debate, since you are only exposed to one opinion at a time, but it does allow you to look at the issues rather than the soundbites and the smiles. There is some interesting, boring, verbose and quite sickening material around, but for a change the content is more important than the packaging.

Would the real Vernon McClure please step forward...

Where were you born and brought up?

I was born in Neasden, before Private Eye invented a university there, and went to school fairly locally in Highgate. I read History in the University of London, at Westfield College, where Marion [Director of Personnel] was. I did a PGCE at Oxford afterwards, it was quite interesting. When I came to do my teaching practice I had a super school, discipline wasn't a problem, but I thought there was no way I wanted to teach History until I'm 65. When I was at college I was secretary of the union for a year, I tended to be a reasonably organised sort of person so I started looking for jobs in education administration.

I was out of work for six months after leaving Oxford but then within a week, I think it was November '71, I was offered two jobs at the same time. One was in the Education and Training Directorate of the CBI, and the other to work as an administrative assistant in the private office of the College Secretary at University College. I chose the latter and there are two reasons why. One was that I couldn't see the career path with the CBI and it wasn't as strong as it is these days and it was more politically conservative than it is now, and the other was that at University College the post was on an incremental scale, of three, and they were offering me a £100 a year more to start. So I started on £1600 in 1971.

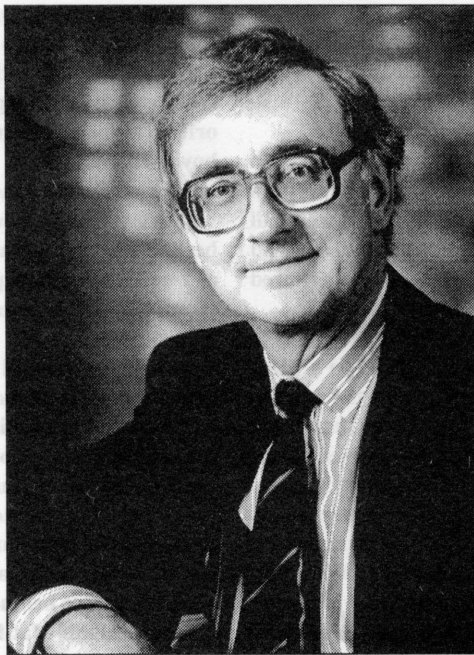
What does your job as Academic Registrar entail?

I think the one place where universities and companies are different is that we have a registry. Our one starts with schools liaison and we have an office that is involved with admissions - this is the Wembley Arena that Simon Baker so fondly remembers. Once you've come we have an office that looks after students records, people will come and get their Council Tax certificates or to get a transcript of what they have done while they have been here. There is another big office called the student finance office, and that gives out peoples maintenance grant cheques. That office also deals with student loans and Access funds.

That's very much the nuts and bolts of things but there's also the policy side so all of the major academic committees are serviced by me or one of the deputy registrars. Most of these are involved in making sure that above departmental level proposals that individual parts of the College want to put together are considered in an informed way by the College community and that decisions are made for the best interests of the community as well as in the interests of the department.

You mentioned Access funds, isn't there a Hardship fund as well?

Yep. The Hardship fund we have greater control over to whom that can be given. For the Access fund we have a template which we are provided by the government in effect, and this year the template has changed in a significant way where unless a student has taken out a student loan, you can't have any access funds. You may agree with that or you may disagree with that but, but, we've got no control over that so we have to apply the rules.



Do you get many applications?

I think that students hit the ground running and there seem so many to begin, perhaps it has increased with greater knowledge of its availability but it's a major exercise each year to determine that for Tony Cullen, the deputy registrar. He provides me with his proposals and I sample 20 or 30 and satisfy myself that those who get more are more deserving than those who get less, but it's not an exact science.

You deal with applications to College. Can you tell me the breakdown between state schools and non-state schools successful applications?

Let me not answer that by going back a step. If you look in the prospectus and some of our other publications, you will see an equal opportunities policy for students, and to paraphrase what that statement says is that IC wants to recruit the best students no matter where they come from.

We know through our schools liaison office which schools frequently provide us with pupils and we can track how well they perform when they come. I joke sometimes that here at IC people crave for statistics and if it moves then put it down on a piece of paper, but we certainly haven't studied the link between students' origins and their success.

When, if ever, you leave here, what would you like to be remembered for?

When I came here, the perception was that undergraduate teaching was not taken seriously enough and as the first secretary of the undergraduate careers committee I think I provided a catalyst for raising the profile of teaching skills and learning skills in a variety of ways.

Secondly, whereas the teaching quality assessment visits for each department have ownership in that department, when the College as a whole was subject to this academic audit in the early- to mid-nineties, there wasn't ownership, we didn't have a Pro-Rector educational quality, and for nearly three years, I lived and breathed trying to make

sure that it was transparent that we did have quality assurance procedures which for an institution that is really quite good in many of its provisions, where the means of demonstrating that we were and so we could monitor that we were.

Was a Managing Director here a good idea?

I personally think the experiment didn't work. It was because the administration at that time was perceived not to be fulfilling the academic mission of the institution; that some parts of the administration had an agenda that was not in step with what the majority of the college community wanted to achieve and that caused serious tensions. I think it has taken up time, but we are back to a model with a college secretary and, I would say it wouldn't I, but I would say that the heads of administrative divisions do understand what the college is trying to achieve and they do work rather well together. Well, you can judge better than me, you have interviewed almost all of them. I think that they are human.

What has had the biggest influence on your life?

I've got a father, who is 92, who is still going but not quite going strong. He probably had the greatest impact because he is such a reasonable person except when it comes to the Irish Question. He's an Ulsterman and he has got no sense when it comes to that. My wife keeps me on the straight and narrow.

What do you do in your spare time?

I play tennis, I play squash. I've got a son who is 14, he and I particularly like a particular Megadrive game, which is called EA Hockey, which is an ice hockey game. I'm not bad at that either, I enjoy it.

What make and model was the first car you bought?

I inherited a mini from my brother who had been given one for his 21st birthday. He was seven years older than me so he then went to Ceylon to work, when I was 15. This thing was put into mothballs and I used to start it up religiously every week until I was 17 and was allowed to drive it. It was almost the first version of the mini, creamy white. I had a succession of minis which got progressively more powerful until I progressed to a Fiesta which was a fiasco. It was painful. I bought that without having test-driven it, and I have never bought a car since that I haven't test-driven.

Could you describe an anecdote typical of you time as a student.

We used to have to write an essay for a weekly tutorials, and instead of reading this out and sending everyone else to sleep, my tutor, Mrs Anderson, said that we should prepare a resume to be read from notes or off the top of our heads. I can remember vividly Vernon being very big headed in those days and I decided to do it off the top of my head and it was not very good, and at the end I said 'I'm awfully sorry Mrs Anderson, that was a bit woolly wasn't it.' She looked at me over her half glasses and in front of all my friends and peers she said 'Mr McClure, you flatter yourself.'

Words: Alex; photo: Neville Miles,
College photographer

Letters to Felix

...ride my bicycle?

Dear Felix,

As another bike goes missing presumed stolen from Beit Quad, not mine but a friend's, I wonder what could be done to try to stop the thieves doing this. Then it occurred to me why not make it so that the entrance and exit were positioned over by a security room. Then if we gave all members of college (staff and students) some form of ID they could identify themselves as they entered or exited with a bike.

Revolutionary ideals that would cost a fortune, the cost of converting that room at the entrance that dispenses snooker equipment and perhaps installing some gates would run to millions possibly, and as for removing the individuals rights by making everyone have a ID card I can see the court of human rights having a field day.

Yours heavily labouring a point
Gary Smith (Elec Eng PG)

Yes, it does make you wonder how a bike can get stolen from the most secure area in college...

political bias in Felix

Dear Alex

While *Felix's* long established neutrality was severely strained by last week's front page news story, which many saw as advocating a vote for new election, this week's new columnist seems to believe that your paper is a party political instrument. Readers may be used to Mr Baker's right wing fascist tendencies, but to have a writer openly advocate voting for the Liberal Democrats was just too much.

Previous issues of *Felix* with the aforementioned Tory ranter have been intensely annoying and I did wonder whether any balance would be applied with alternative view points. Then came along Hamish with his brand of 'wet conservatism' to further emphasise your journal's right of centre tendencies.

But was a column dedicated to the possibilities of a Lib Dem revolution with an exhortation to vote for Ms Osei's favoured group really balance? Are we to expect a column urging students to vote New Labour, and what about Old Labour, the Referendum Party and the Official Monster Raving Loony Party?

With the General Election rapidly approaching I would urge you to publicly state where your paper

stands on this issue. Would it be too much to ask for Ms Osei and particularly the ravings of Messrs Baker and 'Common' to be controlled, if not gagged?

In the hope of an independent and neutral student newspaper,

Ben Weir

Delegations from the parties you mentioned have yet to beat a path to my door, so for now we shall have to suffice with the metered opinions of those who are prepared to put pen to paper.

In any case, I would refute the suggestion that Miss Osei's piece came down firmly for the Liberal Democrats. The view that some form of change, as opposed to the united front presented by the two main parties on most issues, would be beneficial for the country is a valid one. The Liberal Democrats, coming next in line and with a sizeable political heritage themselves, would be the logical suggestion for someone purporting to support a new direction for British politics.

For more detail on this matter and to set your mind at rest over the bias of this paper, I would direct your attention to this week's feature on the PPC's for the Cities of London and Westminster constituency.

imperial totty nil point

Dear Felix,

In response to your "Imperial Totty" article in last week's *Felix*, I would like to make the following comment to the female student quoted. Although not all the 71.4% of the male students at IC are "top notch", of the remaining 28.6%, not all could be considered to be women, but more appropriately could be described as farmyard animals.

Offended IC student

Dear Felix,

Having read your News in Brief article 'Imperial Totty' I felt I had to reply. Bollocks.

Talk about the pot calling the kettle black. The law of averages dictates that at least a few of the 6000 males at IC must measure up enough for the mere 2000 birds, whereas they, frankly, fall into the category 'rough'. Perhaps if some *Cosmo* readers would come shakin' it would provide us with some decent scenery. For a change.

Signed on behalf of the frustrated male majority of Imperial who have standards by a selection of

Imperial's manhood

Considering the fact that the source of the article had nothing to do with the female population of the college, these two replies seem to go after them rather unfairly. Are we perhaps seeing some inferiority complex coming out here boys? It would be a shame if the hordes of *Cosmo* reading women, who are without a doubt making a beeline for our august institution as I write, were to be put off by the examples of IC 'manhood' that are presented here.

So I suggest that all of you (and I note that the authors of these letters have hidden behind the shield of anonymity) turn yourselves in to the 'grotesque IC male' amnesty that *Felix* is willing to operate for the betterment of our environment. That should leave the better adjusted people behind to lead reasonable, valuable fat-free lives.

review blues

Dear Felix,

After reading the review of the new U2 album, POP, in Something for the Weekend, I felt compelled to write. There is a serious need to set the record straight for any of the readers out there who feel slightly bemused.

It's a sad state of affairs when the reviewer finds a need to waste half of his column space on attacking the band's new direction. U2's fans have not been brought up on steady "eco-rock and emotive ballads". True, those who appreciate U2's creative drive and eagerness to include new ideas and new directions will appreciate the album the most. But those who do not, have either been spoon fed a diet of Oasis & Blur three times a day for the last 2 years or they find no joy in change. Lets face it U2 have been so successful because of the ability to incorporate new style and direction into their music. Not by sitting back and relying on the same tried and tested formula.

Another point which I found quite hard to comprehend was the slamming "Bono and the boys" got for continuing to give the public a show. Rather than spitting and sticking two fingers up at any question or challenge posed to them, they come right back and produce an album with all the hype that goes with a U2 production. Hype and change are what we've come to know and love about the boy's.

The hype aside, the album on a

first listening did not seem to give all that was promised. However on a second listen it becomes apparent why we've waited in anticipation for so long to be given the next installment. The wait was worth while and if any of the reviewer listened to the album more than once and gave a shit about what he was doing, then this would have become apparent.

Discotheque was a production which shocked and wet the appetites of the waiting public when released a few weeks ago. Bono is in his element writing some moving ballads such as *If God Will Send His Angels* and *If You Wear That Velvet Dress*. There is so much to take in during one listen, electro experimentation, soaring melodies, and emotive lyrics, forgetting to mention the breaks and Mullens strongest drumming to date, which does far more than keep the rhythm. The rest of the album delivers as far as I'm concerned, roll on the tour in the summer. How will they top the Zoo tv tour? is the question on most peoples lips. I'm sure we won't be disappointed.

A final word to any of the reviewers. Listen to what the fuck your reviewing and don't dismiss something because that's the easy option. And remember we are people concerned with change not sitting stagnant dismissing any progress, simply because its not the norm.

A Jarvis (Maths I)

Sometimes it would be nice to get something right! I agree with a lot of what you say, though I would point out that you are speaking from the perspective of a U2 fan. The reviewer in question wasn't.

If you feel so strongly about music, then we want you in our team of reviewers! Come along to the meetings in the Felix Office (far-left corner of Beit Quad), every Friday lunchtime at 1.30pm.

long live the queen

Dear Felix,

Over the past few years I have learned to groan every time I see an article about the pros and cons of the monarchy. This is not because the subject does not interest me, far from it, but because of the frustrating poor-ness of the arguments usually advocated by the monarchists side. As a general supporter of the principle of Parliamentary Monarchy I know that there are sound reasons for retaining the institution; reasons concerned with the liberty and welfare of the people, not just the usual polemic about symbolism, tradition and the

tourist trade.

The head of the British state is in her position by virtue of her hereditary right. Many people find this unacceptable, but this does not mean that although all other public office may be fought over in whatever unscrupulous and vulgar manner the politicians see fit, the highest office of all is above the dishonourable means so often employed in the game of politics. I see this as an opportunity for the monarchy to restrain the excesses of grasping politicians and to protect the people from their various forms of corruption, whilst in no way interfering with the legislative process. Historically, the monarchy has done much to protect the people from the excesses of Parliament often suffering for it. In a republic, the head of state would most likely be another Conservative politician intent on lining his own pocket.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Squires

Despite failing to live up to its promise of expelling the tired and painful clichés that surround the monarchy debate, I find your letter intriguing as it casts the Queen as squeaky clean against the grubby common politicians. This is viewpoint is rather too simplistic, however I do not have the time to adequately discuss this issue, maybe next term!

green green grass

Dear Felix,

With spring fast approaching, I have been looking forward to the days in the summer term when the Queen's Lawn becomes the place to go for a quick fix of greenery and sunshine (or shade!). As a result, I was more than a little perturbed to see an item on "Queen's Lawn and Dalby Court" on page 5 of that august organ of propaganda aimed at the alumni, *IC Matters*.

This article suggests that not only are college looking forward eagerly to the transformation of the Queen's Lawn into some sort of bizarre water park, but they also plan to turn Dalby Court into a car park, and put a landscaped terrace on top.

As far as I can tell, this means no more grass for us students to loiter on. Presumably a few extra benches might be provided, but I can't see college shelling out for seating for hundreds of students.

The college is already extremely short of green spaces, and these latest plans will, as far as I can tell, leave only one grass verge for those of us who prefer to sit on grass rather than concrete. In addition, both the Queen's Lawn and Dalby Court provide a lift to the spirits even when one is rushing past on the way to the library or along the walkway.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Talbot (comp pg)

high times for all

Dear Sir,

Re: High Times in last issue

The issue of drug "abuse" is always clouded with ignorance, disinformation and preconceptions. Not meaning to criticise the authors of the article, it was claimed that all "safe drugs" are "far more dangerous and addictive than tobacco and alcohol."

To the best of my knowledge cannabis, amphetamine, LSD and MDMA are not physically addictive, unlike tobacco and alcohol. People may come to feel that they need the mental effects of the drug to face certain situations - psychological addiction - but their bodies will have no cravings.

A few more facts that people should know are: no-one has ever died from taking too much LSD (and I would imagine the numbers for death through cannabis overdose are fairly minute); the deaths caused by ecstasy are nearly all caused through heatstroke or drinking too much water rather than from the direct effects of the drug (NB - most of the deaths "caused" by E are due as much to the amphetamine that is often taken along with it rather than the E itself); it is statistically more dangerous to eat your first peanut than take your first E.

The article also claimed that legalising soft drugs would lead more people to try them (a positive thing in

my opinion) and then on to harder drugs. Admittedly if someone is buying soft drugs from a dealer regularly then they may be offered some harder drugs and so a connection may be arguable, but if that same person is going to an off-licence to buy the same soft drugs then there will be no need for them to meet anyone who can supply them with hard drugs, surely reducing the chance of further experimentation?

In my limited experience, alcohol causes much more social problems than any other drug. If everyone went out and did ecstasy instead of getting pissed then there really would be little need for police to patrol the streets looking to stop violence as there wouldn't be any. And people would have a lot more fun.

Drug addiction is a terrible thing (although I have only experienced this through one or two alcoholic friends, and most of the people I know who smoke) and naturally I would not advocate the rampant use of all drugs. My standpoint is that if people want a different drug of choice rather than alcohol then it should be available. I have much more to say on this subject but this letter is far too long already.

Yours faithfully,

Name withheld by request

Letters may be edited for length.

Deadline for letters in Felix 1084 is Tuesday 22nd April.

Letters may be e-mailed to our address: felix@ic.ac.uk

VACATION ACCESS TO OTHER HIGHER EDUCATION LIBRARIES

Undergraduates and postgraduates on taught courses at IC will normally be granted reference use of other university libraries free of charge during the vacations of the host university (under a scheme arranged by SCONUL - the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries).

You should take proof of your current membership of IC, such as your current library card. You are also strongly advised to check in advance of your visit, through the Web page or by telephone, to see if there are any special requirements. The scheme does NOT provide for borrowing, nor for access to electronic sources of information.

The following tapes are now available from STOIC:-

International Night 1995, International Night 1996

Abandon 1996, Abandon 1997

Chinese Soc 1997

East Meets West

Tapes cost £10.00 inc. VAT. We are on level 3, Union Building.

e mail: stoic@ic.ac.uk

HEALTH CENTRE MOVE TO SOUTHSIDE

The move will take place over the period Friday 21st to Monday 24th March and there will be some disruption to services on the Friday and the following Monday and Tuesday.

Our new address will be:

**Imperial College Health Service
Southside
Watt's Way
SW7 1LU.**

Telephone numbers remain the same.

Services will operate as follows:

Friday 21 March - (at 14 Prince's Gardens) all appointments are cancelled but open clinics will run as follows:

Doctor: 08.30 - 11.00 and 13.30 - 16.00

Nurse: 09.15 - 11.15 and 14.30 - 16.00

Monday 24 March - (at Southside) all appointments are cancelled but open clinics will run as follows:

Doctor: 09.30 - 11.00 and 13.30 - 16.00

Nurse: 09.30 - 11.00 and 14.30 - 16.00

Tuesday 25 March - all appointments are cancelled but open clinics will run as follows:

Doctor: 08.30 - 11.00 and 13.30 - 16.00

Nurse: 09.15 - 11.15 and 14.30 - 16.00

We will be back to normal on Wednesday 26 February when appointments will be available, the Doctor's Open Clinic will run from 08.30 - 10.00 and the Nurses Clinics 09.15 - 11.45 and 15.00 - 15.45.

Interviewers required.

Busy West London market research agency urgently requires interviewers from April to early July. There is opportunity for continuous ad hoc work after this date. Training provided. Good rates of pay. Please contact Emma Cody or Emma Fisher on 0181 742 2211.

Felix is produced for and on behalf of Imperial College Union Publications Board.

Printed by Imperial College Union Print Unit, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road,

London SW7 2BB. Telephone: 0171 594 8071

©Felix 1997. Telephone/fax: 0171 594 8072. ISSN 1040-0711

NEWS: ROBIN; FEATURES: AFUA, HAMISH; ILLUSTRATIONS: STAVROS;

PUZZLES: DUNCAN; GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT: DAVID AND MARK; WEB

EDITOR: LEON; PHOTOGRAPHY: ALDOUS, LILY AND LING; SPORT: SIMON

AND MO; COLLATING LAST ISSUE: AFUA AND MO

Pride cometh before a swim

Some of the finest swimmers ever to grace Imperial College are set to break the national BT swimathon time this week. The team of 5 have to swim under an hour for 5km (which means averaging a gruelling 1min 12secs per 100 metres). Coach Norman Jones is confident the team

will rise to the occasion and outperform any previous teams.

The team is also hoping to raise some sponsorship to be added to the BT swimathon good causes, for more information contact Norman Jones (Sports centre) or Andrew Westhead a.westhead@ic.ac.uk.

ACC shows its true colours

After there being talk of one for the past few years, we finally managed to pull it off - an ACC colours dinner. Kicking off at 7.30pm in the union dining hall, there was a distinct lack of medieval fancy-dress, but I think that anyone actually contemplating it was probably relieved when they hadn't gone ahead with it. With the quasi-medieval style food and excessive amounts of wine going down nice and easy leading to the main event - the colours presentation. The colours are awarded as follows (bearing in mind that anyone receiving colours of any kind had to down a pint):

Full colours - for those of ULU standard or higher but who are still committed to their IC team.

Half colours - for those competing at a high standard in their team.

Social colours - for members who have put a lot of effort into their club throughout the year.

This year two new awards were introduced by the union which were named Sports Person and Sports Personality of the year. Congratulations to everybody who received colours. It was an excellent night and I hope it will become a perennial event. Thanks go to the union staff.

Colours Awarded

Sports person of the year:

Edward Rysdale (Fencing);

Sports personality of the year:

Smita Chaturvedi (Hockey).

Full Colours

Nick Adams (Swimming and Waterpolo)
Christopher Balding (Sailing)
Ruffina Emo-Capodilista (Skiing)
Daniel Figueras-Nieto (Skiing)
Chris Fishlock (Cross Country)
Oliver Lytftieton (Rugby)
Nick Manton (Fencing)
Geoff Mullen (Rugby)
Ike Omambala (Football)
Mark Robertson (Hockey)
Lucy Robinson (Hockey)
Edward Rysdale (Fencing)
Andrew Slough (Swimming and Waterpolo)
Caitlin Wroe (Skiing)

Half Colours

Matthew Anstead (Rugby)
Smita Chaturvedi (Hockey)
Andrew Cheadle (Boardsailing)
Richard Craig (Football)
David Davidge (Fencing)
Chrisfina Demetriou (Cross Country)
Richard Gaunt (Boardsailing)
Alexander Doust (Hockey)
Bethan Hopewell (Cross Country)
Nick Hubsher (Skiing)

David Hughes (Fencing)
Ben Hukins (Cross Country)
Mo Mansoori (Fencing)
Thorsten Meyer (Fencing)
Henry Morton (Fencing)
Stuart McTavish (Hockey)
Demetrius Onoufriou (Cross Country)
Monica Pingo-Almada (Fencing)
Dawn Rockliff (Cross Country)
Tim Trailer (Hockey)
Kate Wheller (Hockey)

Social Colours

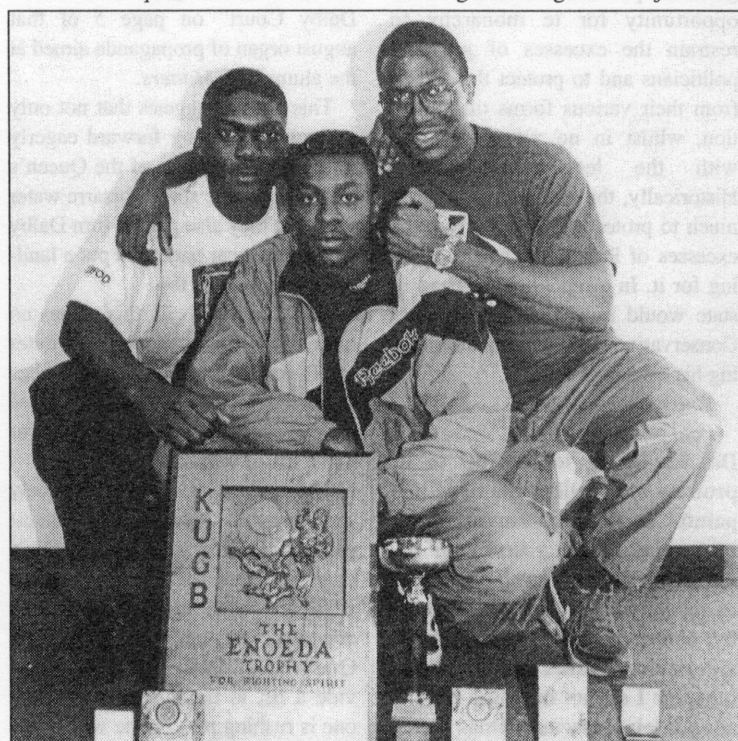
Mo Bradley (Ladies Rugby)
Paolo Cuomo (Orienteering)
Rebecca Fishwick (Hockey)
Paul Harris (Football)
Julian Harrison (Rugby)
Tom Howell (Rugby)
Ben Janes (Hockey)
Gareth John (Orienteering)
Reuben Kalam (Fencing)
Wu Shu Kwan (Kung-Fu)
Nick Manton (Fencing)
Stuart McTavish (Hockey)
Claire Penketh (Hockey)
Dawn Perry (Hockey)
Clare Roberts (Ladies Rugby)
Jacob Sharpe (Orienteering)
Timothy Sheldon (Fencing)
James Singleton (Cross Country)
Philip Siverns (Football)
Karl Stand (Rugby)
Marvin Woodhouse (Rugby)
Juliette Young (Ladies Football)

Karate kids kick arse

14 people from the University of London (ULU) Karate Club attended the KUGB student Championships in Chesterfield. The event is popular and attracts many students. This is the one that people fear! Physically demanding and very tough, months of intensive training went into this.

We were quite confident in our

In the individual events, the London team fighters (Tony, Godwin, Edwin, Rami and Lewis) all got off to good starts. Hughes was one of the favourites having come third in the Shotokan Cup two months ago. He'd to beaten two England fighters to get there. Rami (UCH) is a strong useful fighter who joined us



pool of clubs/unis. In the round before the quarter finals, things were closing down as Ed had to fight Rami. Ed was disqualified for punching Godwin and breaking his teeth. Straight off to hospital for Godwin. Skank. Ed, however, had progressed to the Semi-Finals. Ed was unlucky and settled for the bronze. Tony picked up the silver.

In the final a full-point Ippon in the dying seconds made us Great Britain and European Student Champions.

from the Cambridge ranks after completing his first degree. Lewis is small but quick, agile with plenty of stamina. Godwin is bigger and more powerful with deft timing and reflexes (for his size). Edwin is a dancer.

We would love to go back to Europe to defend our unbeaten two-year stint but need sponsorship of a few hundred pounds to finance just one team out for the 6th-8th December.

Anyone who could help, please e-mail g.u.nkere@ic.ac.uk, Maths III.

RSM buried in RCS landslide

After last weeks performance all did not bode well for RCS in this year's Spark's Cup. But an almost embarrassing defeat dealt out to the boyz last week was all the incentive they needed when taking on the old enemy, RSM. This match was what the whole season had been targetted towards..

RCS's overwhelming forward superiority was evident from the whistle, allowing the backs to run rampant. Straight form the kick-off Darren Bryce took the game to the opposition. He fended off three tackles and beat their winger and fullback in a sprint for the corner. Just before

half-time, Captain Courageous Karl Stand executed a cunning grubber kick which he followed up, collected and grounded under the posts.

Justin "15 stone" Lee showed awesome momentum before diving over the line. An immense dicking display resulted in Justin converting all but one of the tries, including two from the far right touchline.

The other scorers are too numerous to mention but credit goes to our entire squad for turning up. If RSM had managed to field anything resembling a full team, then perhaps there would have been a slightly more even contest. But maybe not.

THE LATEST SCORE

From *Felix's* sports pundit Dave Robinson.

Things are beginning to get serious - as Manchester United slipped up by resting players at Sunderland, Liverpool and Arsenal took full advantage to open up the championship. The expectant crowd were not disappointed by the Liverpool vs. Newcastle fixture, the two sides produced the same kind of match as last year. Admittedly it is rapidly turning into the most exciting fixture in the calendar, but these sides are not going to win the Premiership playing in this style. In the end. Although the two northern sides are still favourites for the title, the Southern Softies from Highbury might spring a surprise as the other two become obsessed with European triumph.

The romance of the FA Cup was sadly diluted by Chelsea's win at Portsmouth, but if Chesterfield can put in the kind of performance that Hednesford managed against Middlesborough they might be in with a shout. They have already knocked out Blackburn, Nottingham Forest and Bolton who were all on good form at the time of the match. Meanwhile Leicester quietly booked their Wembley appointment at Wimbledon's expense on Tuesday night, they are likely to face Robson's Middlesborough. With Michael Beck finally motoring, Emerson ever present and Ravanelli happy, Middlesborough have a semblance of a team rather than an eleven. They have finally started to beat the mid-table sides convincingly, scoring freely and defending well. Incidentally William Hill are giving pretty good odds on Middlesborough

winning both cups and still getting relegated.

Next week will hopefully see Newcastle, Manchester United and Liverpool all into the semi finals of their respective European competitions. If they achieve this England could be the only nation with representatives in each cup. One of the best things that could happen to British sport in general would be for all three trophies to come back to England. Although this is pretty unlikely given Newcastle's plight, we will dominate Europe again - hopefully in about two months time.

The nocturnal members of college will have seen victory in the Australian Grand Prix for David Coulthard in the McLaren. After three years of Damon Hill and Michael Schumacher fighting it out, it makes a change for different drivers to dominate the scene. Damon Hill's failure in the Arrows will have tempted Jackie Stewart to whisper 'told you so', as he saw his team go incredibly well for a first race. Hopefully Coulthard's success wasn't a one off, British drivers seem to have an unlucky record recently. Under Frank Williams, Mansell, Coulthard and Hill were all deprived of top drives after successful seasons, to make way for Prost, Villeneuve and Frentzen.

The next race will see William's desperate to reassert their authority on the two championships, this might lead to the kind of problems Ayrton Senna faced while trying to kick start his season after falling behind in 1994 before the San Marino GP.

C&G slaughter everyone

On the morning of Saturday the first of March, the massed ranks of ICRPC mat to compete for the Courtman Shield at Bisley. This is an annual rifle competition held between the constituent colleges of IC. The morning was spent shooting full-bore rifles at three hundred yards at targets with a V-bull of three and three quarter inches in diameter. By the end of this, C&G had taken an early lead, closely followed by RCS and RSM.

The afternoon saw shooting at five-hundred yards. Here C&G's star shot, Andrew, decided that our Spanish army surplus ammo was not good enough for his rifle and switched to his hand loaded, radar

guided rounds, each of which cost £44.99 and is lovingly polished on the inner thigh of Belinda the Beautiful Bisley Butt marker. He then proceeded to score 34.4 out of 35.7. He was said to be disappointed at dropping one but this performance still guaranteed C&G victory thanks also to sterling efforts from Rupert Ingham and Lawrence von Gould. The exact placing were 1st C&G 185.8; 2nd RSM 173.0; 3rd RCS 171.4.

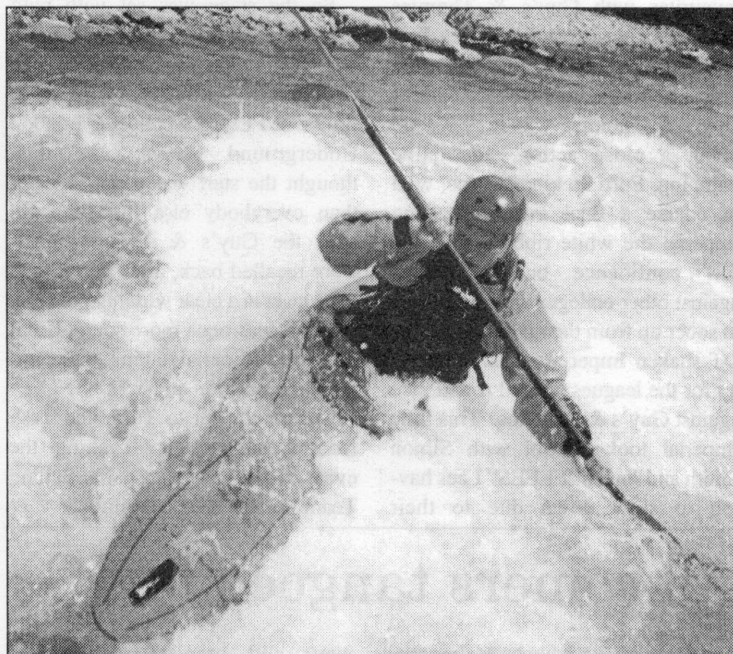
Wednesday nineteenth of March gas been declared a full-bore day. This could be your last chance to shoot the guns that will soon be banned. End of season membership costs only £4.

Canoeists in the swim

In February the IC canoeists went to the Last Chance meet in Wales. Well, this weekend's rain has just conspired to give us not only one of the most challenging weekend's canoeing - but also one of the most expensive.

Frank and Rob showed improvement on the upper section of the

Jools in the front of the Duo for safety reasons. Everything proceeded without hitch, until we were confronted with a tricky section near Bethesda. Ross at this point consulted a local for route advice (he followed a duck), but Colin swam under our feathered friend's route guidance. Plenty of choice on the next



Glaslyn, whilst Jools tackled the gorge with more enthusiasm than control, after the reserve force of Garth, Colin and Adam turned up with some new kit, very handy when your best set of paddles have just become 'missing in action'.

Food in the pub was OK, but there was a disappointing level of interest in the beer from the boys, although the backwards ladder climbing game was strangely popular on return to the hut.

Rain that night caused rivers to rise. Scouting early, the Ogwen looked ripe to paddle, but on arrival later the level had risen considerably, and just looking inspired 'The Fear' in most members present. Today's paddle looked to be an exercise in proving adrenaline to be brown and to accumulate in the back of your wetty. After checking what the rest of the river looked like below the Gun Barrel (it's that fast!), it was decided that this was probably just about within (at?, beyond?) the limits of most of those present. We're a sturdy bunch, but this was a trip only the truly mad would attempt.

Setting off, Piers and Garth took the foolish step of running the Gun Barrel, in the Topo Duo. After a painful swim and some comedy rope rescues, we set off again, but with

stretch as we made it to the start of the hard bit - Fisherman's Gorge. Lots of water pouring down a boulder channel made for a very technical and intensive descent. This certainly took it's toll on the boys - Jez and James falling early (although the Duo did land on an upside down Jez, rather prompting him to get out).

Garth and Jools ran most of the length of this section with few problems - the Topo sheds pins very easily, and they almost seemed in control. However the sheer number of drops meant that a mistake had to come.... only three more little drops to the end too. The Gorge claimed five swims, with Neil demonstrating his stunning lack of ability to paddle roll. Ben and Adam also swam on the last section, to their great annoyance (and our delight?), and so with just three left paddling, it really meant it was time to throw in the towel. Our thanks to Frank, Rob and Piers for standing in the rain and strapping the boats on must be recorded here.

Poor swimming excuses from this trip -

Nothing at all from Ross, for being the only one not to swim.

"I got stuck upside down in a hole for ages" (Adam)

"The Duo landed on top of me"

(Jez)

FELIX SPORT

Sailors cruise home

Once more the colleges of the University of London fight it out for the "Castaways Team Racing Cup". For once Imperial weren't the favourites with Guy's & Thomies fielding helms from London's first team. Imperial were thrown in the deep end with their first race against Guy's & Thomies which ended up being a close action, adrenaline pumping, Euro 96 kind of race, with of course a final mistake costing Imperial the white ribbon. After a few confidence building races against other colleges and some time to sober up from the night before, the DT shaken Imperial squad were set up for the leagues second round race against Guy's & Thomies. This time Imperial took control with Simon Smith and James "FLEES" Lees having to slow down due to their

immense speed, while the 2 Andys (Jones & Keen) played around with Guy's & Thomies boats holding them back.

So the stage was set with both teams recording one loss each and a one race final being the decider. The first start was a lucky escape since Simon & FLEES were using London Underground watches, so they thought the start was a minute later than everybody else thought. So after the Guy's & Thomies boats were recalled back, after sailing into the sunset in a clear winning position, the start was once more sounded but this time Imperial taking the commanding position and WINNING.

Thanks go out to Tony and Tash from Castaways for running the event. Good luck to Imperial Sailing Team in their BUSA qualifiers.

All-comers tangoed by IC

On Saturday 8th March, 24 Imperial College Dance Club Team members travelled to Watford Town Hall to compete in the Inter Varsity Dance Association (IVDA) Competition. In their usual spectacular style they won the competition, beating strong opposition from Cambridge, Oxford, Bristol and ULU to name just a few. They picked up the A-Team trophy, 2nd Place B-Team Trophy and 3rd Place C-Team, displaying yet again their superiority on the dance floor.

With feathers, sequins and chiffon flying everywhere, Jo Silmon-Clyde (Team Captain) and Helen Chung, David Schaefer and Ruth Bundy achieved 2nd Places in the Quickstep and Waltz respectively for the A-Team. The Jive competition was a closely fought affair with Nevil Pesika and Hazie Hamzah collecting 2nd Place for the Latin A-Team after only five days practice. Naveen Gunawardane and Lianne Huang sailed into their 2nd Place position with their evocative version of the Cha-Cha-Cha.

101 Dalmations, (well, 16 any-

way), slid, pranced and prowled around the dance floor to win the off-beat competition, (formation dancing). However, even the cute dog outfits made by the team members could not have won without the amazingly attractive Cruella De Vil (David Schaefer) in his/her black dress, long eyelashes and wild hair-do.

Winning is not a new concept to IC Dance Club. They are arguably the best University Dance Team in Britain winning competitions across the country for a number of years. Two factors contribute to their consistent success. The first is the amazing dedication of the dancers involved whose long hours of practice are paid off with excellent competition results. The second is the superb coaching of Dorothy Charlton (Modern) and Vicky Cuniffe (Latin-American). Thank you for all your hard work and patience. Sadly, at the end of this year we lose some of our senior members to bigger and better things. Jo and company - You'll be missed.

Another sports editorial

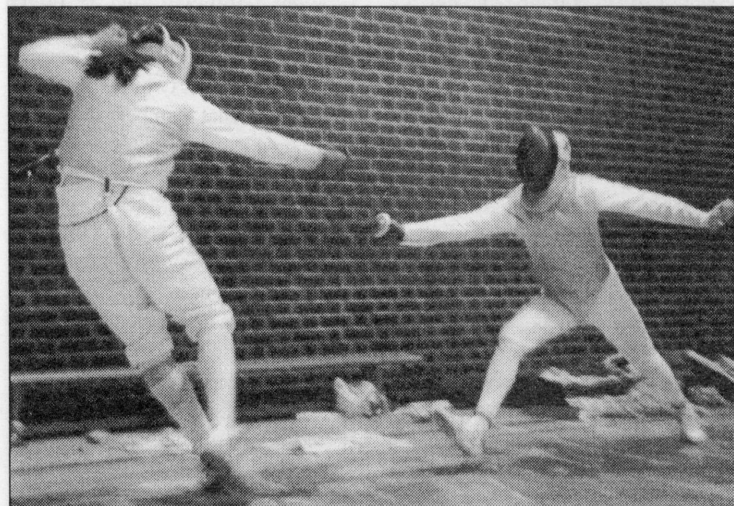
With a two-one win against Holloway on Wednesday, ICFC firsts could still be crowned league leaders if they win their last match of the season.

The fencers and dancers have proved again that mighty IC can compete on a national stage, even if we can't win University Challenge two years on the trot.

Swashbuckling swordsman slash to victory

A lot of people have accused the fencing club of being rather arrogant this year. Which is fair enough, because we are. We have also lived up to our own high expectations by winning the BUSA championships in Birmingham last Saturday. With

foil team pulled off the last 8 fights to give Imperial a 13-5 lead going into the épée, one short of victory. The first fight went to Birmingham, but in the next Henry brought us home with a 5-4 victory to give Imperial its first title since 1991. We



victories over Nottingham, Bradford and reigning champions Oxford en route to the finals, we could already taste victory. After the free draw we faced Durham in the semi-finals, possibly our biggest threat.

With our weakest weapon (épée) up first, our opponents went 1-0, and then 2-1 up. From then on, it all went horribly wrong for the northerners [Oi watch it - northern and fencing team Sports Ed.], as we took the last 6 épée fights to lead 7-2 going into the foil. Such is the strength of our foilists, that the BUSA individual champion is the weakest member of the team. Hence we rattled off another 9 victories without breaking into a sweat to take us past the 14 wins we needed for victory. So a demoralised Durham decided that they would run for home, and conceded the sabre bouts. A final score of 25-2 to Imperial.

In the final we faced the home favourites, Birmingham, who had narrowly squeezed past the token Scottish team from Heriot-Watt in the other semi.

Sabre was up first this time, and some good fencing from Birmingham restricted us to only a 5-4 lead going into the foil. A minor hiccup in the first foil fight let Birmingham draw level, but after that we were never in danger as our

could now afford to relax, and won two more fights to leave the final score 16-11 to Imperial.

In the absence of club chairman Reuben Kalam, men's captain Nick Manton went forward to receive the trophy, together with Henry Morton to receive a tankard for fencer of the tournament. The team for the finals was: -

Foil - Henry "Mad Dog" Morton, Eddie "Crazy Legs" Rysdale, David "Damage" Davidge (who remained unbeaten all season)

Épée - Nigel "Old Geezer" Davies, Henry "Mad Dog" Morton, Eddie "Crazy Legs" Rysdale, Phil "Perry" Miller

Sabre - Thorsten "Sebastian" Meyer, Mo "Mr. Animal" Mansoori, Nick "Ray" Manton

Also, thanks must go to Sarah Corneille for organising the weekend, and especially to Duncan Tindall for giving up his weekend to drive us to Birmingham, and supporting us without a clue as to what was going on!

Don't worry BUSA, we'll fix the trophy before next year, its only in three bits, and the cup can be hammered back into shape - we'll have our passing skills improved by then as well.

If we still have any money left, we want to go on a tour this year.

JEZ

Not for sale to anyone

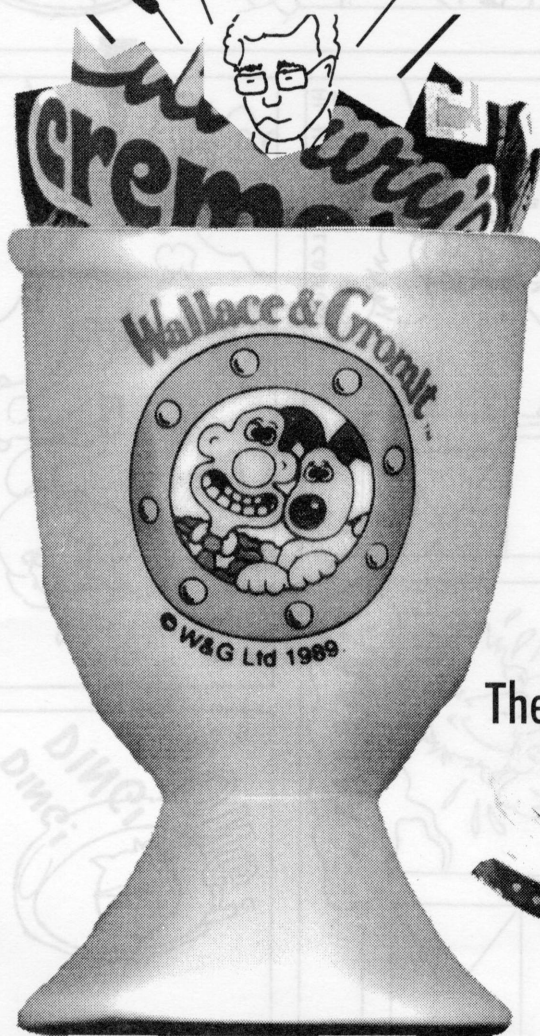
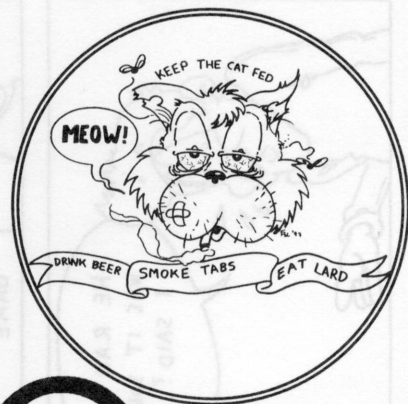
March/April
97

Easter

Eggstavanganza!

Quake

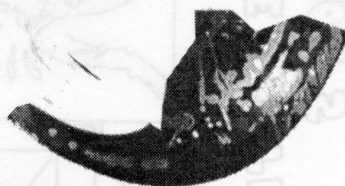
Ronnie
Fartpants
Felix
Photostory
Top tips



AAAAAAA...



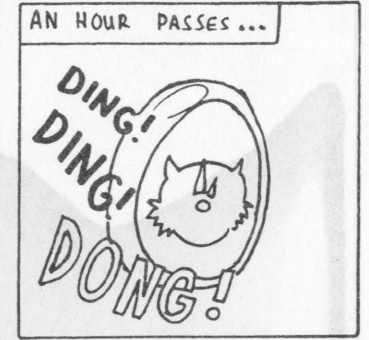
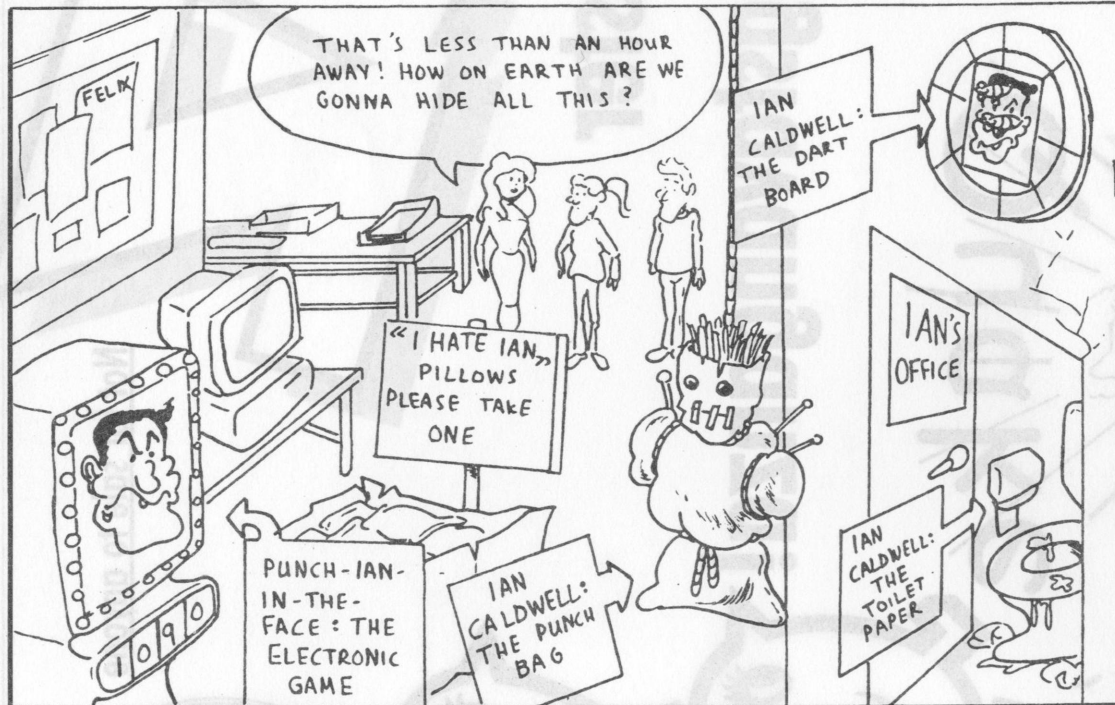
The day Caldwell came to town



REAL LIFE DRAMAS
THIS WEEK:

"INTERVIEW
WITH A

CALDWELL"



NEXT WEEK:

"THE LITTLE
RECTOR'S
LUDICROUS
LOBOTOMY"

Pol '97



Contents

- Interview with a Caldwell 2
- Top Tips 3
- The Exciting Life of an IC Student 3
- Felix true story 4
- Twilight on us all 7
- Ronnie Fartpants 8

© Felix 1997 so hands off. No part of this publication may be replicated by any means or stolen for insidious personal gain except with the permission of the Grand Quaziarg of Quarg.

Published by Imperial College Union Publications Board. They didn't object because they're all cardboard cutouts and complete poofs, so there.

Written and produced by a house full of Jiz men and women:

Editor: Juan 'Juan' Fakkir

Illustrators: The Monks of St Dunstonian's Priory Letchworth

Contributors: Jon 'John' Trout, J J Thomson, Mark Le Marr, Cjhuck Berry, Dee Dee Elliot.SP, the Anonymous Beachcomber, D-No0 Steam.

Photos: Rarbin Roilee.

Thank 'e kindly for reading this far down the credits, but now you can sod off and read the rest of Jiz.

TOP TIPS

Don't waste money on new books. Simple take an old one, tippex out the writing and put new text on top. A biro (15p) is perfect for this. *Twit. Bookstore.*

For a more professional looking result, cut out letters from old newspapers and use them instead. *Twit. Bookstore.*

If you must buy new books, meet me under the Sherfield steps at 10pm on Tuesday. Cash only. Just don't buy them in Waterstones. Please. *E. Alsop A. Twit. Bookstore.*

Taxi drivers - save yourself the trouble and expense of running a cab by simply wandering around with a Uzi and shooting students' legs off. *M. Roadkill. Brixton*

Southside shop - don't waste time opening the shop in the morning, simply mug passers-by in broad daylight. *E.J Smith Tizzard Hall.*

Security officers - A French loaf makes an excellent holder for doughnuts, and when you've finished them you can spread it with chocolate, bend it into a ring, and eat it. Mmmm. Doughnuts. *H. Hussain. The Sandwich Shop*

Students - don't go to the effort of washing your pillow case each year, simply use a black bin bag instead. When you've finished your degree, just throw it away! (and sleep in the bag). *Stink Battersea*

Builders, don't make the extra effort to be quiet, just keep banging away until everyone is deaf and can't hear you anyway. *B. Student the Library*

Builders, why try and string coherent sentences together when just shouting random crap interspersed with the occasional word will keep everyone guessing as to what your really trying to complain about. *Off The Library.*

Astrophysicists - a disposable camera sellotaped onto a brick and thrown vigorously into the air makes a great alternative to a satellite-based spectrometer. And you can spend the remaining money on beer. All £2.50 of it. *Faceless Bureaucrat. Sherfield.*

Ian Bayley - Try eating less biscuits and sausages and more real food, you tory scum. *Major Downing St.*

Alex Feakes - a microphone connected to a fuck-off massive amplifier might just allow people to hear what you are saying. Possibly.

Maths students - Avoid making embarrassing snoring noises during lecture by not going in the first place. Then recreate the notes by cutting up a Greek newspaper and throwing it about. *Pleb Biology.*

Biochemists - stop making up new words as I am trying to revise and it makes life difficult. *D Elliot*

Computing students - 0010011001 0111001101100110111001010 110011001010101011001101001 01010100001100101110011011001 1

11101110010101010011010101100 11010010010011001011100110110 01101110111001010101001101010 11001101001001001100101110011 01100110111011100101010100110 10101100110100100100110010111 00110110011011101110010101010 01101010110011010010010011001 01110011011001101110111001010 101001101010110011010101. *mltb1. Cyberspace.*

Oasis Fans - why not tell everyone how much you like the band by singing at the top of your atonal voice in the bar, you drunken twats. *Albarn. Saarf London.*

Examiners - Extend your lifespan by at least 20 years by giving me a good grade. *D. Elliott ermm*

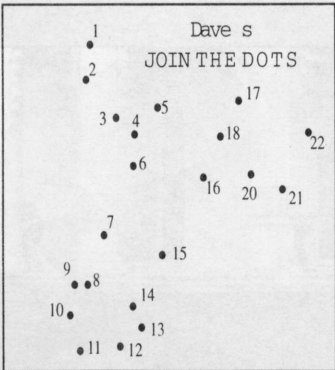
Football fans - don't waste money on expensive tickets. Just put your table football table on a spinning washing machine and yell URRRRRRRGH!

Vegetarians - dried dog turds make a fine alternative to expensive soya protein. And piss can be used to turn milk in to vegetarian cottage cheese.

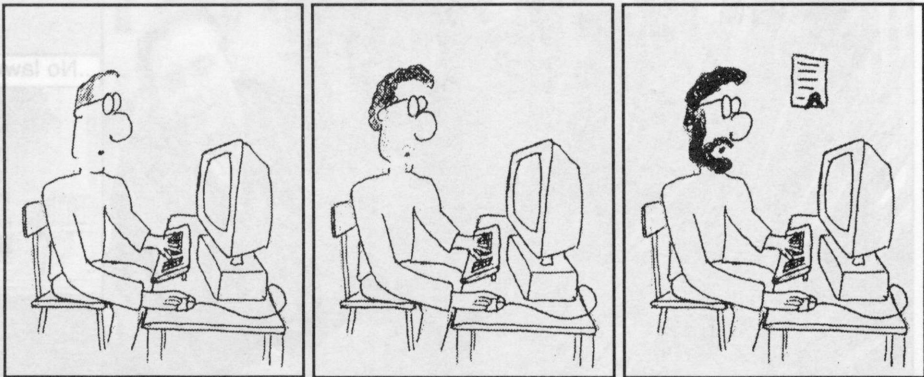
Run out of vinegar? Just squeeze out a copy of Guildsheet and the vitriol will provide a tart taste for your chips. But the crap won't. *Mr Sarson.*

Dustmen - amuse yourselves by kicking open bags of rubbish and yelling instead of collecting them. *T Banks House of Commons*

Students - get your own back on dustmen by filling your rubbish bags with shit. This also saves on water bills. *Grant. Earls Court.*



THE EXCITING LIFE OF AN IC STUDENT. by J.Trout



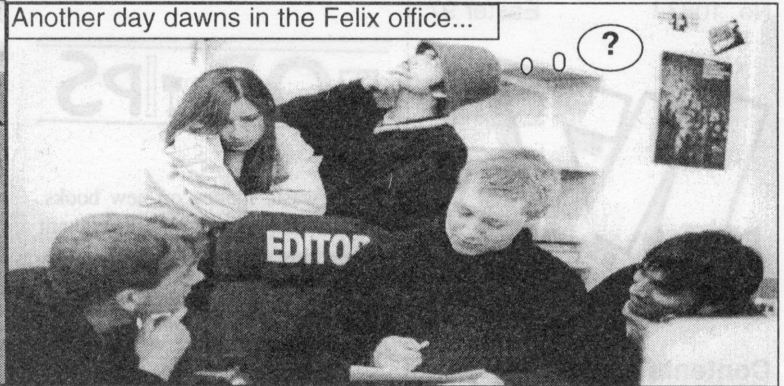
FELIX

TRUE STORIES

The mystery of the missing editor

Another day dawns in the Felix office...

?



Meanwhile...



Comrade Kaldvelski, you come highly recommended. I have a delicate matter which needs..handling

"...I need you to remove the Felix editor, for only he stands between me and world domination."



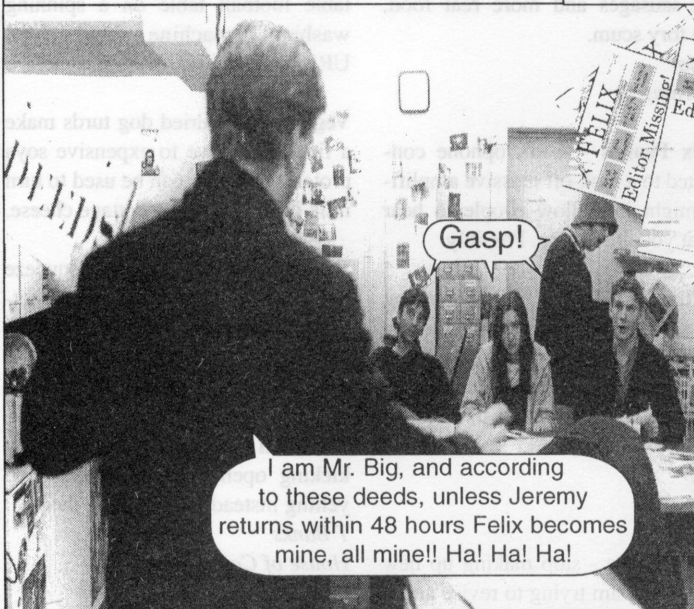
Argh!!



Suddenly, the peace is shattered by the appearance of a mysterious man

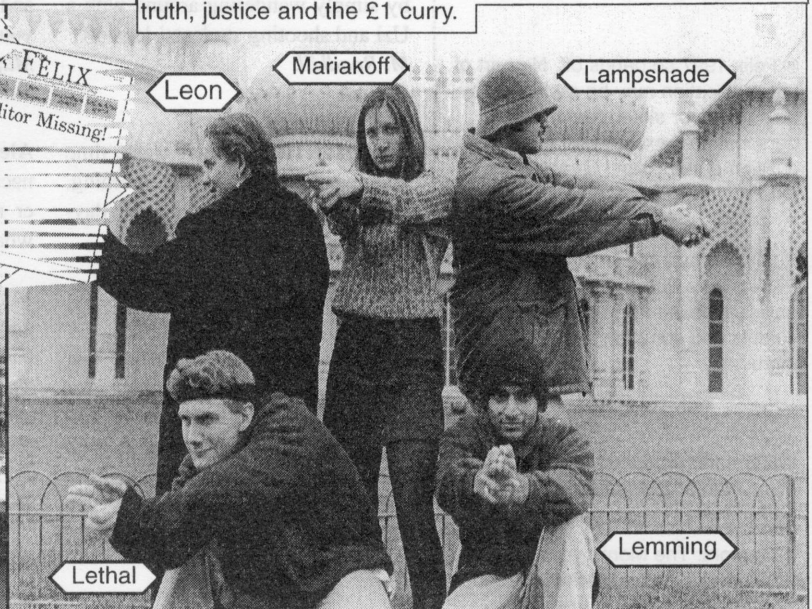
As news breaks, it's time to send in...

The Crack News Team! You will never find a more fearless, more committed bunch of hacks dedicated to the search for truth, justice and the £1 curry.



Gasp!

I am Mr. Big, and according to these deeds, unless Jeremy returns within 48 hours Felix becomes mine, all mine!! Ha! Ha! Ha!



Leon

Mariakoff

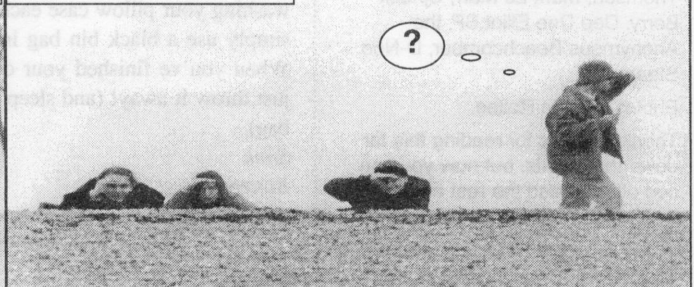
Lampshade

Lethal

Lemming

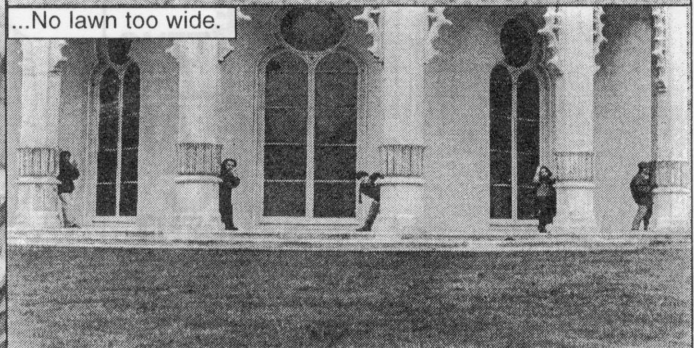
Ever resourceful, they begin their quest. No obstacle is too great...

...No distance is too far...

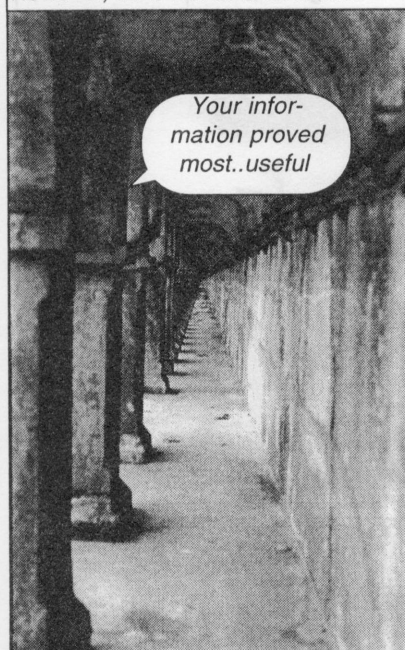


?

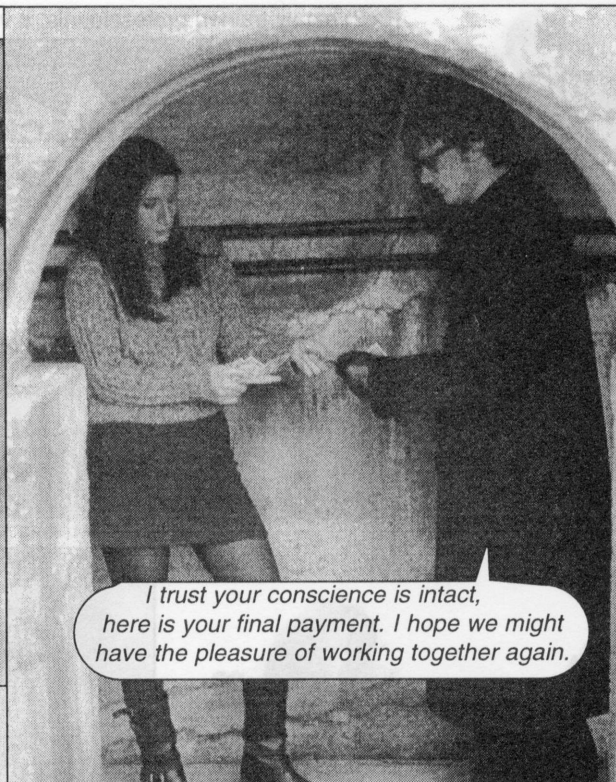
...No lawn too wide.



However, all is not as it seems...

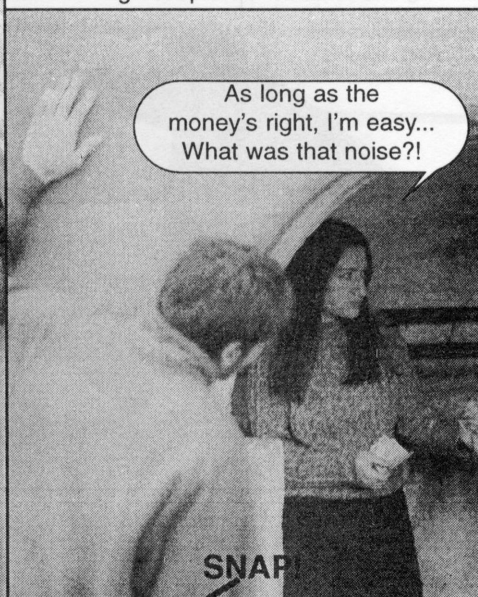


Your information proved most..useful



I trust your conscience is intact, here is your final payment. I hope we might have the pleasure of working together again.

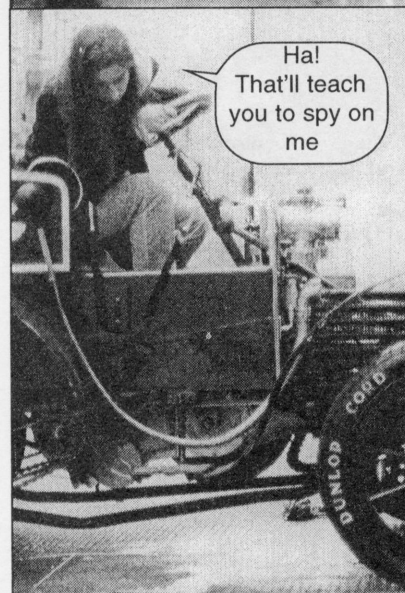
But nothing escape the News Team...



As long as the money's right, I'm easy... What was that noise?!

SNAP

But as Lemming lay dying he revealed the identity of the double-agent to the rest of our heroes.



Ha! That'll teach you to spy on me



Aahhhhhh! You'll not get way with this

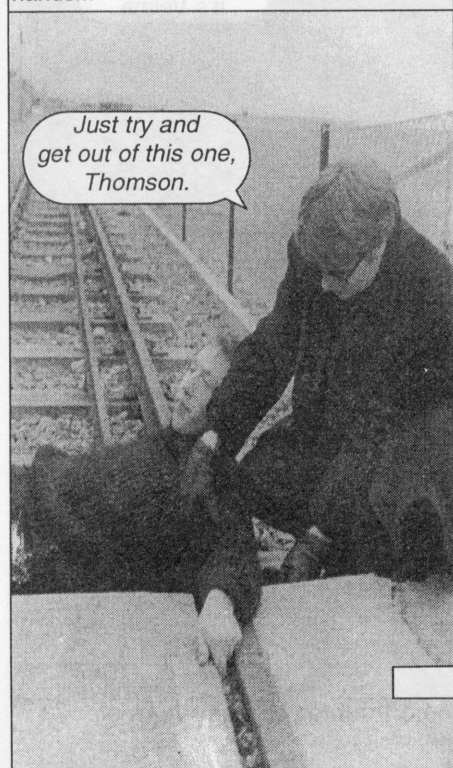


Talk! Talk! You double-crossing %\$#?er

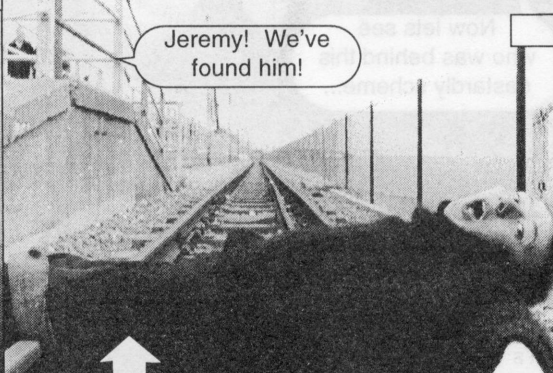
With the Crack News Team gaining, the evil Kaldvelski takes matters into his own hands...

As death hurtles towards Jeremy, the News Team arrive in the nick of time...

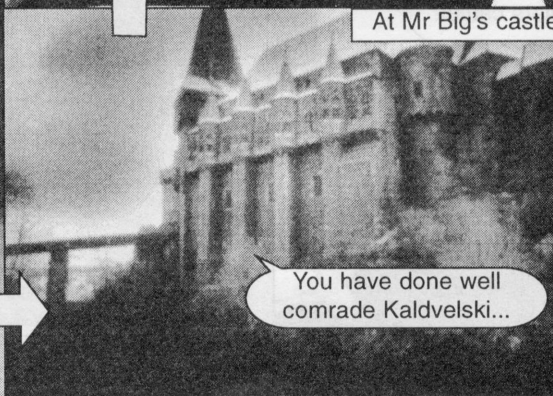
Kaldvelski celebrates his victory...



Just try and get out of this one, Thomson.

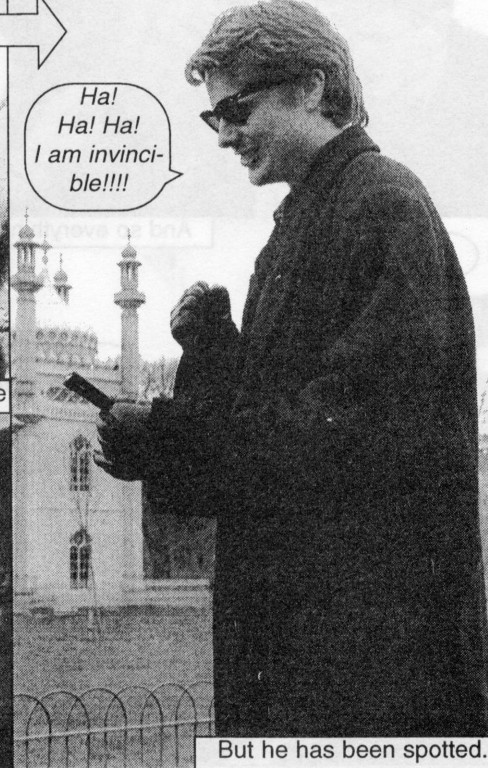


Jeremy! We've found him!



At Mr Big's castle

You have done well comrade Kaldvelski...



Ha! Ha! Ha! I am invincible!!!!

But he has been spotted...

Lethal gives chase...



Both highly trained professionals, a vicious fight ensues



Kaldvelski is beaten...



Kalvelski reveals all and leads the News Team to Mr Big's castle



Next time: Jeremy in more trouble with the return of Kaldvelski and Mariakoff...

TWILIGHT IS UPON US ALL

Dark chocolate strikes a blow for taste over silly packaging of inferior milk based products

A fierce debate has suddenly sprung up over the danger of Easter egg packaging to small furry animals, notably gerbils. It is believed that these seemingly innocuous and brightly coloured boxes are responsible for a bizarre epidemic of deaths amongst small mammals, especially gerbils.

Nazis

A recent series of experiments performed by former Nazi war criminal Herr Evell, has uncovered a strange defect in the way the decorative packaging is perceived through the visual cortex of the smaller variant of furred mammals, particularly gerbils. It is suspected that the bright colours combined with the curved dimensions of eggs creates a form of hallucinogenic cross-circuit within the brains of our more diminutive relatives, making them seemingly believe that they are eggs and roll around motionless, pausing occasionally only to explode as a reinactment of the hatching process.

Dead kids

This has lead to growing fears, especially from concerned parents, that the boxes might bridge the species gap and have an adverse effect on children who don't know any better. Given that in many cases chocolate Easter eggs are targeted at the younger consumer has lead to allegations that the confectionery industry are involved in some global mind-control project and it is only sheer luck that the conspiracy was discovered.

Hypocritical commercialists

Pet shop owners are stunned at the potential loss of life but when it was pointed out that many parents whose small furry pets were inflicted would have to replace the said pet in order to keep little Johnny happy, several pet shops have been reported to have started stocking Easter eggs themselves.

Danger scale

Given these appalling revelations we at Felix, in the true interest of community spirit and self-sacrifice, have taken it upon ourselves to be guinea pigs and bravely face the unknown by testing the treat level of the various Easter eggs currently available on the market.



Rolo (Nestlé) £2.99

Extra - 2 rolls of Rolo

"...Cocoa solids don't really come out - dry - boring..."

"What you see is what you get"

Small Mammal Threat - Large brightly coloured egg counteracted by very dull brown box.



Barbie (Kinnerton) £3.49

Extra - Mug plus three small eggs

"...Plastic mug, quite small, not good china quality - cut-out doorhanger..."

"Nasty, very nasty taste"

SMT - Highly dangerous amounts of pink combined with multiple pink eggs, a real danger area!

Darkness (Cadbury's) £3.35

Extra - Chocolates

"...Black Magic lite..."

"...The packaging was crap... - ...the packaging was brilliant..."

SMT - Black box removes much of threat but firework displays could prove potentially dangerous if exposure time is long.

Star Wars (Kinnerton) £1.49

Extra - Star Wars shaped jellies

"...Darth Vader packaging but hard to

open without damaging..."

"...Fantastic

R 2 D 2 ,

Millennium

Falcon

and

Vader jellies..."

SMT -

Very

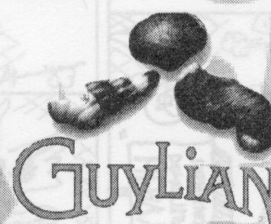
low

due

to

primarily

black box which has less threatening shape.



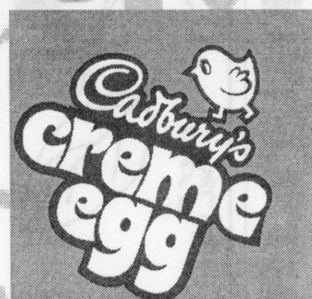
Guylian £4.99

Extras - Pack of Guylian chocolates

"...Gold, gold, gold... - ...Look at the size of that baby!..."

"...They're not shells, they're chocolate..."

SMT - Boring monochrome box but shell shapes could create confusion.



Creme Egg (Cadbury's) £2.89

Extra - 2 creme eggs

"...Nice little birdie on the front..."

"Creme eggs - They're nasty, they're horrid, they make me vomit"

SMT - Brightly coloured eggs combined with hundreds of chicks on box

makes this a very dangerous box.



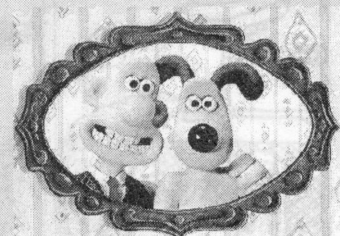
Black Magic (Nestlé) £3.99

Extra - Black Magic chocolates

"...Perhaps appeals to your sort of female executive type..."

"...I could eat that all day..."

SMT - Low potential threat thanks to very black box.



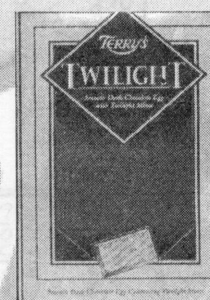
Wallace and Gromit £4.99

Extras - Mug and teacup

"...Proper china mug and teacup - good value..."

"...Multi-purpose doorhanger to cut out on box..."

SMT - Close call this but picture of dog is likely to generate too much fear.



Twilight (Terry's) £2.99

Extras - Twilight mint-chocolates

"...The perfect Easter egg..."

SMT - Although potentially boring box the gold colouring could affect some rodents.

Thus the message is clear, the best tasting eggs also seem to be the safest for our furry friends.

	TASTE	PACKAGING/ EXTRAS	DISAPPOINTMENT VALUE	VALUE FOR MONEY	OVERALL
1	Black Magic	Wallace and Gromit	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight
2	Twilight	Star Wars - Darth Vader	Black Magic	Wallace and Gromit	Black Magic
3	Darkness	Twilight	Darkness	Star Wars - Darth Vader	Wallace and Gromit
4	Creme Egg	Black Magic	Wallace and Gromit	Creme Egg	Darkness
5	Wallace and Gromit	Guylian	Star Wars - Darth Vader	Black Magic	Star Wars - Darth Vader
6	Rolo	Darkness	Guylian	Guylian	Guylian
7	Guylian	Barbie	Barbie	Darkness	Creme Egg
8	Star Wars - Darth Vader	Creme Egg	Creme Egg	Rolo	Barbie
9	Barbie	Rolo	Rolo	Barbie	Rolo



★ **HARD-CORE SEXY SCIENCE!** ★

Pick up the phone, darling!

"I'll integrate your parts, you saucy var**ble!"

"I'll contract your metrics anytime!"

0171 594000

"I'm bisecting your semi-latus rectum!"

0891 123456

"R Adults will suck your arse!"

0171 381 4170.

PHYS-X-TALK

No time wasters. Calls charged at £h per minute. Your degree is at risk if you are sad enough to dial these numbers.

NEED TO MAKE A NEW START?

THEN TRY NEW **LEAF**

Actually turn over a new leaf!

New Leaf is ideal for:

- Turning over.

"When I gave up being the son of God, I turned over a new leaf." J Christ, Runcorn.

Just Send £8.29 to Treeman, Herts.

Name:.....

IQ:.....

IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF EVIL

welcome to Imperial college, London. Tonight on world in action we ask Dr. P. Small his opinion on cloning and humans. Dr. Small...

well, I feel the scientific community is opposed to cloning humans. Its unethical. ask my assistant Dr. Small

yes, I also think that human cloning is wrong, and it just won't be allowed. ask my PhD student Peter,

Id have to agree with Dr Small and Dr small, I think its all just public hysteria and it just want happen

etc.